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# The **MICHIGAN GAMING** Newsletter



## **OHIO LEGISLATURE INTRODUCES CASINO REGULATORY BILLS**

On Wednesday, May 26, the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives each passed separate legislative proposals setting forth the structure of how casino gaming will be regulated in the state. According to the Ohio constitutional amendment passed last November, the legislature has until June 3 to agree upon and implement a final plan of operation for the four planned casino sites in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo.

The proposed legislation creates a seven-member Ohio Casino Control Commission as well as a separate and permanent, six-member legislative Joint Committee on Gaming and Wagering intended to review gaming laws and rules. Ohio Senate Bill 263 (S.B. 263) passed the Republican-controlled Senate 20-12 while the Democrat-controlled House passed House Bill 519 (H.B. 519) 69-27. Both bills largely agree upon the powers of the proposed Ohio Casino Control Commission, but significant differences still remain between the two bills.

### **The Ohio Senate and House proposals agree upon:**

- o A \$2 million application fee to each casino site licensee;
- o Creation of a seven-member state casino commission with each member serving staggered four-year terms;
- o Casino license subject to renewal every three years;
- o Patrons must be at least 21 years of age to gamble;
- o No smoking;
- o No alcohol after 2:30 a.m.;
- o Unlimited number of table games, but no more than 5,000 slot machines per location; and
- o Casino operators are free to set minimum and maximum wagering criteria, upon approval from the newly from state gaming commission.

## **The Ohio Senate and House proposals disagree upon:**

- o House members want to allow charitable gaming at horse racetracks, while the Senate does not;
- o The Senate members want to allow the state inspector general broader authority to investigate wrongdoing;
- o Only the Senate version requires casino operators to include information regarding “any criminal conviction” by persons applying to the state for licensure;
- o The House bill includes specific plans for how casino licensing fees (that total \$200 million) will be allocated toward specific programs and funds. In contrast, the Senate defers spending decisions to future legislative action; and
- o The House version requires a \$5,000 fee for liquor licenses while the Senate version calls for a \$25,000 fee.

According to recent reports, both bills are expected to go to a conference committee, and leaders of both chambers said they are optimistic that a compromise can be reached by the June 3 deadline.

For the language of S.B. 263 and H.B. 519, please visit [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128\\_SB\\_263](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_SB_263) and [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128\\_HB\\_519](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128_HB_519), respectively.

## **PRESIDENT OBAMA ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA INDIANS TO ADVISORY COUNCIL**

On Thursday, May 13, 2010, President Barack Obama announced his intent to appoint Derek Bailey, Tribal Chairman of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

According to the release, Chairman Bailey was sworn in as Tribal Chairman on December 11, 2008 and is the fifth Chairman since the Grand

Traverse Band was federally reaffirmed in May, 1980. He is currently serving as the Chairman of Michigan’s Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan and most recently was selected as the Chairman of the Chippewa/Ottawa Resource Authority. He holds a Master’s degree in Social Work from Grand Valley State University.

The Indian Education Act of 1972 established the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE). The Council is ultimately responsible for advising the Secretary of Education about the administration of and funding for all American Indian and Alaska Native education programs. The Council must also submit an annual report to Congress, including recommendations for improvements. All terms are indefinite.

For more information, please visit: <http://ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oie/nacie.html>.

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCM) is a non-profit corporation that is located in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. It represents eleven of the twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan. The ITCM is divided into several different divisions, including: Health Services, Behavioral Health, Environmental Services, and Child, Family, and Education Services.

For more information, please visit the ITCM’s website at: <http://www.itcmi.org/>.

## **ODAWA CASINO RESORT ANNOUNCES HIRING OF EXECUTIVES**

According to recent reports, the Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey, Michigan has announced the hiring of David Wolf as its new general manager and Melissa Richards as director of human resources.

Mr. Wolf has over twenty-five years of gaming experience, having worked in local and regional gaming markets. His prior experience includes serving as Corporate Vice President of Planning and Analysis at Legends Gaming and Senior Director of Operations at the Isle of Capri Casino in Mississippi.

*(Continued on page 3)*

“Odawa Casino Resort presents some great opportunities and a few challenges,” stated Mr. Wolf. “I am very excited to have the opportunity to work at this award winning property and look forward to becoming a part of the community. The area is beautiful and I hope as a team we can work together with our tribal leadership and community members to make this a business that truly represents this area and makes us all proud.”

Ms. Richards previously worked at Radio One, Inc. in Lanham, Maryland. She brings more than ten years of human resources experience, including positions at Charles Town Race & Slots in Charles Town, West Virginia.

“Odawa Casino Resort offers a great opportunity to people who are looking for a career as opposed to just a job,” stated Ms. Richards. “I am very excited to help with this process and truly make Odawa Casino Resort the Employer of Choice. We will focus a lot of our energy on training to ensure that our Team Members are properly equipped so they may create a fun and safe environment for all that come through our doors.”

For more information, please visit the Odawa Casino Resort’s website at: <http://www.odawacasino.com/>.