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For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit [www.michigangaming.com](http://www.michigangaming.com)

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# The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



## U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES INTERNET GAMBLING REGULATION BILL

On Wednesday, July 28, 2010, the House Financial Services Committee passed H.R. 2267, a bill seeking to allow U.S. citizens to wager online in a regulated and controlled environment. The proposed legislation would establish a federal regulatory and enforcement framework under which Internet gaming operators could obtain licenses authorizing them to accept wagers from individuals in the United States. As approved by the House Financial Services Committee, the legislation requires licensees to take appropriate safeguards to prevent fraud, money laundering, underage gambling and compulsive gambling. The vote for passage was 41-22.

As amended by the Committee, the legislation provides for the following:

- protections to prevent minors from gambling online;
- prevents inappropriate online advertising targeted toward underage or compulsive gamblers;
- clarifies the effect of the act on Indian tribes;
- requires consultation with tribes in implementation;
- prohibits licensees from accepting bets or wagers from persons on the self-excluded list of compulsive gamblers and persons delinquent on child support payments;
- prevents the use of a credit card to gamble online;
- clarifies an exception for intrastate and intratribal online lotteries;
- prohibits sports betting;
- requires that players set financial loss limits;
- strengthens regulatory requirements re: integrity and fairness;
- bans violators of federal and state gambling laws from obtaining a license; and
- requires a U.S. presence as a condition of obtaining a license.

*(Continued on page 2)*

“We commend the lawmakers who helped make H.R. 2267 stronger through a variety of consumer protection mandates. In particular, we thank Representatives John Campbell (R-CA), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH) and Melissa Bean (D-IL) for their thoughts additions to the bill and their interest in preserving the rights of adult poker players in their districts,” said John Papas, Executive Director, Poker Players Alliance.

To monitoring the legislative debate, please visit: [www.theppa.org](http://www.theppa.org).

## OHIO LOTTERY COMMISSION VOTES TO CREATE NEW RULES

On July 19, 2010, the Ohio Lottery Commission voted to create new rules governing the operation of video lottery terminals at the state’s horse racing tracks. According to the Ohio Lottery website, the Commission will hold a public hearing regarding the new rules on August 20, 2010, at 11 a.m. in Cleveland, Ohio.

The proposed new rules seek to address legal constraints put on Ohio’s Governor. However, it is unclear whether the rules will be challenged or what the success of a challenge would be. In 2009, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland sought to authorize video lottery terminals in the state, yet the initiative, which was included in a Ohio state budget bill, was challenged and overturned by the Ohio Supreme Court.

The 2009 proposal sought to install up to 17,500 video lottery terminals at the state’s seven race tracks. *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* reported that Lottery spokeswoman Jeannie Roberts could not comment on how many video lottery terminals are planned on being introduced or what the timeline is for installation.

Persons interested in monitoring the rule making process can visit the Ohio Lottery’s website <http://www.ohiolottery.com/legal/vlt.html>.

## MICHIGAN LOTTERY COMMISSIONER M. SCOTT BOWEN NOMINATED AS U.S. ATTORNEY

On Wednesday, July 28, 2010, U.S. President Barack Obama nominated Michigan Lottery Commissioner M. Scott Bowen for the United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan. The nomination now goes before the U.S. Senate for confirmation.

Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm appointed Mr. Bowen as Lottery Commissioner on January 13, 2008. He had previously served as the director of the Office of the State Employer. Prior to that post, he served as judge of the 62 A District Court in Wyoming until July, 2005.

Mr. Bowen earned his law degree from the University of Detroit Law School and his bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University. Mr. Bowen currently resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## POKAGON BAND ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR SATELLITE CASINO

On Tuesday, July 27, 2010, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi’s (“Tribe”) Gaming Authority announced that it has voted to approve plans to expand its gaming operations. The Pokagon Band currently owns the Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Michigan. The casino is operated by Minneapolis-based Lakes Entertainment, Inc.

The vote marks the first step towards building a satellite gaming facility in Hartford Township, Michigan. According to the Tribe’s press release, the Gaming Authority will officially approach local governments to come to an agreement on the details of the project. Van Buren County is located in south east Michigan. The casino will be located near I-94 and about 45 miles from New Buffalo.

In August of 2008, the Tribe successfully amended its state-tribal gaming compact with the state of Michigan to allow for two satellite gaming

*(Continued on page 3)*

facilities to be built on eligible Indian lands in both Van Buren County and Cass County. Both facilities are required to include no more than 1,000 electronic games. The Tribe's Four Winds Casino Resort includes 3,000 slot machines and 100 table games.

## **MGM GRAND DETROIT HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR FIRST DETROIT-BASED URBAN GREENHOUSE AND GARDEN**

**T**oday, July 30, 2010, MGM Grand Detroit and The Greening of Detroit (TGOD) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the first Detroit-based urban greenhouse and garden. MGM Grand Detroit will invest \$1 million in value to the project over the next five years.

The MGM Grand Detroit Grand Garden, which is the temporary name of the location, will be an estimated two acres. It will grow several fruits, vegetables, flowers, and herbs that are indigenous to Michigan.

The MGM Grand Detroit Grand Garden is located on Third Street near the rear of the casino, directly across from the Self-Parking structure.