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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



MICHIGAN LOTTERY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Since the swearing-in of the 96th Michigan Legislature on January 12, 2011, three bills have been introduced that could have an effect on state lottery operations, if passed. These bills are summarized below.

[House Bill 4051](#)

House Bill 4051, introduced on January 13, 2011 by Rep. Mark Meadows (D-East Lansing), would bar Michigan Bridge Card holders from using the card to purchase lottery tickets. In addition, the card could not be used to withdraw cash from any ATM machine or to buy tobacco or alcohol products.

On January 13, 2011, House Bill 4051 was referred to the House Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors.

[House Bill 4093](#)

House Bill 4093, introduced on January 18, 2011 by Rep. Kenneth Horn (R-Frankemuth), would allow for the Michigan Lottery Commission to authorize advertising between club keno games. If passed, the bill would allow the lottery commissioner to contract with outside companies to run advertisements in the time between keno drawings. Under the bill, the commissioner would solicit potential advertisers through a bidding process and the proceeds of advertisements could be placed into the specially designated Club Keno Advertising Fund. This revenue would be used to reimburse the lottery for the costs associated with advertising to fund the Pure Michigan campaign and for deposit in the state school aid fund.

House Bill 4093 was recommended for referral to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation on January 25, 2011.

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[House Bill 4151](#)

House Bill 4151, introduced on January 26, 2011, would amend the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act to mandate that at least one of the five Michigan Gaming Control Board members be a “representative of the equine industry.” This change comes in the wake of Executive Order 2009-45, issued in October of 2009 by Governor Jennifer Granholm, which transferred oversight of the state’s horse racing industry to the Executive Director of the Michigan Gaming Control Board. House Bill 4151 was introduced by Rep. Cindy Denby (R-Handy Township).

On January 26, 2011, House Bill 4151 was referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

NOTICE: MGCB PUBLIC MEETING CHANGE OF DATE

The Michigan Gaming Control Board (“MGCB”) recently announced that it will hold its first regular public meeting for 2011 on Wednesday, February 23, 2011. The meeting was previously scheduled to be held the day prior, on February 22, 2011.

The meeting is open for the public and questions, comments and suggestions from the public are welcome during the public comment portion of the meeting.

The MGCB meeting will take place at the Detroit Office Hearing Room, located at Cadillac Place, 3062 W. Grand Blvd., Suite L-700, Detroit, Michigan at 9:30 A.M. on February 23, 2011.

SAULT TRIBE REJECTS ROMULUS CASINO PLAN

On Friday, January 28, 2011, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians (“Tribe”) announced the unofficial results for two voter referenda sent to eligible Sault Tribe members earlier this month. Of the referenda, a plan to pursue a casino in Romulus, Michigan was not defeated by tribal members.

The referendum, “Pursuit of Settlement of a Land Claim with respect to property in the Romulus, Michigan Metropolitan Area,” sought to repeal Resolution 2010-249 was not approved by a vote of 1,864 to 2,986. Thus, the voters overturned the board’s action as approved on November 9, 2010.

According to a press release by the Tribe, “[t]he board respects tribal membership’s right to vote and the referendum process,” said Sault Tribe Chairman Joe McCoy. “The board will continue to explore business and other investment opportunities across the state, including in Metro Detroit as provided in written agreements with former Govs. John Engler and Jennifer Granholm that can help the tribe achieve our goal of economic self-sufficiency. That’s what we have been elected by the membership to do.”

The Tribe currently operates five Kewadin Casinos in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. For more information on the Tribe, please visit: www.saulttribe.com.

MICHIGAN GAMING INDUSTRY’S NEW ‘PEOPLE ON THE MOVE’

Ms. Kristina Potrykus

On Friday, January 21, 2011, the Grand Traverse Resort & Casino announced the appointment of Ms. Kristina Potrykus to the position of Marketing Director. Ms. Potrykus will be responsible for the marketing of Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel and Leelanau Sands Casino & Lodge.

“This is a beautiful place with lots of excitement and friendly people.” Ms. Potrykus told the *Michigan Gaming Newsletter*. “I’m looking forward to strengthening our relationships with our guests.”

Ms. Potrykus has more than 17 years working for Native American casinos and tribal governments in the state of Wisconsin. In addition, she worked for a cruise-based casino operated by Titan Cruise Lines of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Most recently, Ms. Potrykus was employed by the

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Forest County Potawatomi Community in Carter-Crandon, Wisconsin, where she held the position of Marketing Director of the Potawatomi Carter Casino & Hotel in Wabeno, Wisconsin. Previous to holding that position, she was the Assistant Marketing Director of the Potawatomi Bingo Casino in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Ms. Potrykus holds a MBA with Marketing Strategies emphasis from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. She received her Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Business Administration from the University Wisconsin – Stevens Point. She is a tribal member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation.

For more information about the Grand Traverse Resort & Casinos, please visit: www.grandtraverseresort.com.

If you know somebody who you would like featured in *The Michigan Gaming Newsletter's* monthly 'People on the Move,' please contact reporter Blaine DeGracia at degracia@rmclegal.com.

GUN LAKE CASINO ENTERS INTO AGREEMENT WITH IGT

Today, January 31, 2011, International Gaming Technology (“IGT”) announced that Gun Lake Casino of Wayland, Michigan and its management partner, Station Casinos, have signed an agreement to install IGT’s fully integrated casino management solution. The agreement includes a complete suite of operator and player applications, IGT server-based technology and a majority share of games on the casino floor. The Gun Lake Casino is scheduled to open to the public on February 11, 2011.

“We’re pleased to continue our successful partnership with Station Casinos and help the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians open the doors at Gun Lake Casino with the best solutions in the industry,” said Ron Rivera, IGT senior vice president of North American sales. “This install delivers to Gun Lake Casino an advanced level of flexibility and control for managing the casino floor, resulting in superior operating results and a unique gaming experience for their players.”

According to IGT, Gun Lake Casino will feature IGT’s server-based Tier One package, a lease-based offering that combines IGT Floor Manger with IGT’s AVP machines, plus access to IGT’s game library of high-performing themes. The lineup will allow the Gun Lake Casino the ability to instantly deploy its choice of more than 300 game themes to the floor.

“IGT has a proven track record of performance and results at Station Casinos, and we knew Gun Lake would benefit from that experience,” said David Frakhouser, assistant general manager for Gun Lake Casino and former corporate director of gaming operations for Station Casinos. “In particular, IGT’s bonusing solutions have helped us increase revenue and drive player loyalty. We look forward to using their latest technologies at our newest property.”

The Gun Lake Casino, located off of U.S. 131 between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, will feature 1,450 slot machines, 28 table games, a 225 seat café, food court, and other entertainment amenities. The 82,000 square-foot facility is owned by the Gun Lake Tribe and operated by MPM Enterprises, LLC, a Stations Casinos affiliate, and private investors from Michigan.

For more information regarding the Gun Lake Casino please visit the casino’s website at: www.gunlakecasino.com.

AGA ANNOUNCES NEW GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS APPOINTMENT

On Friday, January 28, 2011, the American Gaming Association (“AGA”) announced that Whitaker Lee Askew has been appointed the new vice president of government affairs. According to the AGA, Mr. Askew will be responsible for advocating on behalf of the gaming industry on key issues and focus on enhancing the support of those lawmakers in Washington to include representatives of all gaming jurisdictions, as well as those from districts not located in traditional gaming states.

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Mr. Askew has extensive experience on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., where he served for almost five years in the office of the then-Minority Leader and now Speaker of the House, John Boehner (R-Ohio), as the executive director of The Freedom Project. Prior to working with Rep. Boehner, Mr. Askew served as a political action committee coordinator at the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America.

“Whit’s record of achievement here in Washington speaks for itself, and his contacts and experience will be vital as the AGA embarks on the challenge of introducing the commercial industry to more than 100 new Members of Congress,” said Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr., president and CEO of the AGA. “In order to expand our coalition of advocates to reflect gaming’s status as a national industry, the AGA needs a strong team, and I firmly believe that Whit will provide to be an excellent addition.”

Mr. Askew joins a government affairs team that currently includes Fahrenkopf and AGA vice president Dorothy Jackson. He fills the position vacated by John Versaggi, who had worked with the AGA since 2010.

For more information regarding the AGA or Mr. Askew, please visit: www.americangaming.org.

DAILY AGA SMARTBRIEFS

Last year the American Gaming Association introduced the *AGA SmartBriefs*, a free daily e-newsletter which keeps the gaming industry up to date on the latest gaming news.

Sign up and stay ahead of the curve with updates on products, technologies, amenities, industry happenings and more. You can register to receive the free *AGA SmartBriefs* by visiting www.smartbrief.com/aga.