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For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit www.michigangaming.com

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The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



MICHIGAN ILOTTERY REVENUES EXCEED STATE EXPECTATIONS

As reported in Volume 20, Issue 27 of the *Michigan Gaming Newsletter*, the Michigan Lottery launched a soft roll out of its iLottery platform in September of 2014. The platform permits Michigan residents to buy and play lottery games on their mobile and personal computers. Yesterday's issue of *MIRS* reported that revenues from the iLottery games are exceeding expectations during the initial launch period according to figures provided by Michigan Lottery Commissioner M. Scott Bowen.

The *MIRS* report quoted Mr. Bowen as saying "It is going well. Gaming revenues are about \$2 million a week for the last two or three weeks." The news report went on to indicate that 86,000 players to date having gone through an extensive procedure to gain access to the state's Internet gaming site.

In order to log onto the iLottery platform, a person needs to visit: https://www.michiganlottery.com/about_online_games?ng_id=111977DA6EA82766&ng_token=1647709331

FORMER FIREKEEPERS CASINO MEMBER APPOINTED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION BY GOVERNOR SNYDER

On January 15, 2015, Governor Rick Snyder announced that Christine Lanning, of Battle Creek, has been appointed to the Michigan Community Service Commission. Ms. Lanning is Tribal Council Treasurer and Chairperson for both the Culture Committee and Elders Committee for

the Notawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (“NHBP”). She previously served as the senior purchasing agent for the FireKeepers Casino. She replaces former commission member Larry Romanelli.

“Christine is passionate about community service because she is continuously the first one to volunteer,” said NHBP Tribal Chair Home A. Mandoka. “This appointment by Governor Snyder is a perfect fit.”

The Michigan Community Service Commission is a 25-member board that fosters a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. It also develops a three-year comprehensive community and national service plan that is updated annually. Members of the Commission serve three-year terms.

“I am confident that these appointees will do great work to help inspire people to further embrace volunteerism and community service for the betterment of our state and all Michiganders,” stated Gov. Snyder.

INDIANA BILL TO EXPAND GAMING INTRODUCED

On Tuesday, January 13, 2015, Indiana State Representative Todd Huston (R – Fishers) introduced House Bill 1275 (“HB 1275”) which, if passed, would provide several changes to gaming regulation in Indiana, including expansion efforts.

[HB 1275](#) seeks to make significant changes to the Indiana gaming industry by allowing various forms of gaming expansion. The most significant change to the state’s gaming industry laws is the removal of the requirement for casinos to be located on riverboats. Under the new legislation, the law would make no distinction between riverboats and land-based facilities, allowing for land-based gaming options in the future.

The legislation seeks to make the following key changes to the state’s regulation of gambling:

1. Removes requirements for casinos to be located on riverboats,

2. Removes restrictions on the total number of slot machines that can be operated at a racetrack casino,
3. Removes live racing requirements for racetrack casino licensees, and
4. Repeals the riverboat admissions tax.

These changes are reflected throughout HB 1275, including removing several tax allocations to local governments in connection with the proposed repeal of the riverboat admissions tax and by removing local approval requirements related specifically to riverboat gaming. Importantly, the bill currently has an effective date of July 1, 2024. Thus, the legislation in its current form would not be immediately effective.

The legislation follows an Interim Study Committee on Public Policy recommendation for several changes to the state’s gaming industry aimed at making the industry more competitive with neighboring jurisdictions. The Committee has recommended land-based options for existing operators, reconsideration and study of state admissions taxes and levies on free play, and to allow live dealers at racetrack facilities. It has been reported that State Representative Tom Dermody (R-LaPorte), who headed the Interim Study Committee, is also planning on introducing legislation that would incorporate the Committee’s suggested changes.

HB 1275 has been referred to the Committee on Public Policy. For more information on the legislation, including a copy of the full text, please visit the Indiana General Assembly’s website at: <https://iga.in.gov/>.

LAST DAY OF NOMINATIONS FOR NIGA HUMANITARIAN AWARD

On April 1, 2015, the National Indian Gaming Association (“NIGA”) will be presenting the 17th Annual Wendell Chino Humanitarian Award during the 2015 NIGA Indian Gaming Trade Show & Convention in San Diego, California. Entries must be submitted today, January 23, 2015 to be eligible for consideration.

To submit a nomination, please click [here](#).

The recipient of this award must demonstrate a variety of characteristics that protects and enriches the Tribal Gaming industry. Last year's award was presented to Chairman Marshall Mckay of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

The nominee must display the following characteristics:

- Demonstrated commitment to peace
- Demonstrated commitment to ease of suffering and injustice
- Demonstrated commitment to fair governance
- Demonstrated commitment to the advancement of inter-cultural understanding

The Michigan Gaming Newsletter would like to thank Mr. Austin Essenburg for his contributions to this Newsletter.