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Editor in Chief

David D. Waddell, Esq.
Phone: 517.507.3859
waddell@rmclegal.com

*Senior Gaming Analyst
& Editor*

Robert R. Russell, II
Phone: 517.507.3858
russell@rmclegal.com

Reporter and Associate Editor

Blaine R. DeGracia
Phone: 517.507.3857
degracia@rmclegal.com

Reporter

J.J. Burchman
Phone: 517.999.5414
burchman@rmclegal.com

Reporter

Matt Thornburg
Phone: 517.507.3860
mthornburg@rmclegal.com

Subscription information:
info@michigangaming.com

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RMC Ventures, LLC

Asher Court
321 W. Lake Lansing Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: 517.507.3860
Fax: 517.908.0235
www.rmclegal.com

The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On March 29, 2017, two charitable gaming bills were favorably reported out of the House Committee for Regulatory Reform. House Bill No. 4081 (HB 4081) was reported with recommendation with substitute [H2](#) and Senate Bill No. 0035 (SB 0035) was reported with recommendation with substitute [H1](#). The bills were returned to the house floor and scheduled for a second reading.

Both pieces of legislation seek to amend the Traxler-McCauley-Law-Bowman Bingo Act ("Bingo Act") by overhauling the provisions regulating charitable millionaire parties held within the state and seek to organize the Act into two Articles. According to the House Committee for Regulatory Reform, Article 1, created by Senate Bill 35, with substitution H1, would contain definitions and provisions pertaining to different types of allowable charitable gaming other than millionaire parties. Enforcement and supervision of the administration of Article 1 would be the responsibility of the Bureau of State Lottery.

Article 2, created by House Bill 4081 with substitute H2, would govern millionaire parties. The Michigan Gaming Control Board ("Board") would bear responsibility for regulating millionaire parties, or those events at which wagers are placed on games of chance through the use of imitation money, similar to that of a casino. Many of the provisions are similar or identical to provisions contained in the emergency rules promulgated by the executive director of the Board in 2014. However, HB 4081 would rescind any rules promulgated by the executive director prior to the bill's effective date and require the promulgation of new rules to implement Article 2.

HB 4081 and SB 0035 were introduced by Representative Tom Barrett (R-Potterville) and Senator Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge), respectively.

JACK ENTERTAINMENT MAKES LEADERSHIP CHANGES

On March 30, 2017, JACK Entertainment, announced two additions to its team. Pending regulatory approval, Alyse Martinelli will assume the position of vice president of human resources and Cynthia Hays will join the company as vice president of compliance.

“We are delighted to welcome Alyse and Cynthia to our dynamic leadership team,” said Mark Dunkeson, president and chief operating officer, JACK Entertainment.

Ms. Martinelli earned her Bachelor’s in economics from Calvin College and a Juris Doctorate from Michigan State University College of Law. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Martinelli was senior vice president and general counsel for the Reel Health Network, leading the company’s legal, business and human resource initiatives.

Ms. Hays is a certified paralegal with over 15 years of experience in gaming compliance, both with a casino operator and with a gaming manufacturer. She will be joining JACK Entertainment after working as the executive director of global technical operations services for Scientific Games Corporation, where she was responsible for customer education, technical documentation, end-user training and technical and operational regulatory compliance for gaming and lottery systems.

SENATE HOLDS ADVICE AND CONSENT HEARING FOR APPOINTED LOTTERY COMMISSIONER, NESBITT

On March 29, 2017, the Michigan Senate Committee for Regulatory Reform held a hearing with regard to the appointment of Aric Nesbitt, who was named Lottery Commissioner by Governor Snyder on February 17, 2017. No objections were raised in during the hearing, and the Committee took no formal action. Under Article 5, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution

the Senate has until April 19, 2017, to disapprove Mr. Nesbitt’s appointment, or the confirmation stands confirmed.

In answering questions from various Senators, Nesbitt highlighted his commitment to keep the Michigan Lottery fresh and up to date with new ideas, opportunities and technology. According to Mr. Nesbitt, this commitment, in part, is what makes Michigan a top-5 state in terms of Lottery offerings.

Mr. Nesbitt is the ninth commissioner and succeeds the most recent and longest serving Lottery Commissioner, M. Scott Bowen, who has taken a position as senior vice president, business development, with NeoPollard Interactive, LLC, an iLottery provider to the State Lottery.