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The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

New Sports Wagering Related Bill Introduced

On April 26, 2017, Representative Robert Kosowski (D-Westland) introduced [House Bill 4529 \("HB 4529"\)](#) which seeks to amend the McCauley-Traxler-Law-Bowman-McNeely lottery Act ("Bingo Act") by allowing sports betting at Michigan Lottery terminals run by lottery sales agents who have a "sports betting agent" distinction and calls for the Lottery and Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB") to develop the necessary system for doing so. HB 4529 was referred to the House Committee on Regulatory Reform on the same day it was introduced.

Two Charitable Gaming Bills Pass House Floor

On April 27, 2017, [House Bill 4081 \("HB 4081"\)](#) and [Senate Bill 0035 \("SB 0035"\)](#) passed the House, each with 100 yeas and 9 nays, and now both bills will head to the Senate. HB 4081 and SB 0035 were introduced by Representative Tom Barrett (R-Pottersville) and Senator Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge), respectively.

The two pieces of legislation also seek to amend the Bingo Act by overhauling the provisions regulating charitable millionaire parties held within the state and seek to reorganize the Act into two Articles wherein Article 1, created by SB 0035, 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 HB 4081, would govern millionaire parties. The Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB") 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 MGCB 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.

DETROIT CASINO CONSTRUCTION JOBS MAY DRAW MORE SMALL-BUSINESS BIDDERS AS GAMING CONTROL BOARD EASES LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Below is the Press Release issued by the Michigan Gaming Control Board on April 25, 2017.

***Detroit** – Construction subcontractors will find it easier to bid on Detroit casino construction projects beginning June 1 as the Michigan Gaming Control Board eliminates some licensing requirements under a resolution adopted at the April 25 board meeting.*

“Some companies may have been discouraged by the MGCB licensing requirements and chosen not to bid, limiting competition,” said Richard Kalm, MGCB executive director. “By changing licensing requirements, we hope to drive small-business growth by encouraging more construction subcontractors to seek business with the casinos. The eased requirements also can save time and money for the casinos, their suppliers and ourselves.”

Starting in June, construction subcontractors working on large casino construction projects may perform up to \$2 million worth of work in any rolling 12-month period for a Detroit casino without obtaining an MGCB license. The current maximum is \$400,000 worth of work.

The new \$2 million limit applies to subcontractors

providing services involved in a construction contract. The resolution also offers an automatic exemption to subcontractors providing certain construction materials on eligible construction projects.

This is the MGCB's latest action to ease regulatory burdens for Michigan businesses to drive small-business growth while maintaining the integrity of gaming. In January 2015, the board approved less restrictive licensing requirements for non-gaming suppliers.

SELECT ONLINE GAME CARD PURCHASES OFFER BONUS FREE PLAY TO LOTTERY PLAYERS

On April 25, 2017, the Michigan Lottery (“Lottery”) announced that lottery players still have a chance to receive bonus free play with select Online Game Card purchases. Those players who buy Online Game Cards for \$20, \$50, and \$100 will have bonus free play of \$5, \$15, and \$35, respectively, added to their card. Online Game Cards may be printed from Lottery terminals at retailers and are valid for five years from the date of purchase.

Players may redeem up to \$500, not including bonus play, in Online Game Card per week in their online accounts.