

February 23, 2017

Volume 23, Issue 7

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

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

A publication of
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: SPORTS BETTING BILL INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

On February 21, 2017, Michigan Representative Robert Kosowski (D-Westland) introduced [House Bill 4261 \("HB 4261"\)](#) and the bill was referred to the House Committee on Regulatory Reform.

The language of HB 4261 seeks to amend the Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act to allow casino licensees and "sports betting agents" the ability to accept parlay wagers on sporting events. Furthermore, HB 4261 states that the Michigan Gaming Control Board must also provide rules and licensing to allow for the licensing of "sports betting agents" to accept parlay wagers on sporting events throughout the state at retail location. As stated by HB 4261, parlay wagers are single bets of 2 or more wagers in which the winners are determined based upon the outcome of any professional or collegiate sporting event, including racing, held within or without the state of Michigan.

HB 4261 is similar to [House Bill 5828 \("HB 5828"\)](#), which was introduced by Rep. Kosowski last year but died at the end of the 2015-2016 legislative session. Notably, there are significant federal law hurdles to these bills under the federal Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992. That act, however, is being challenged by the state of New Jersey in federal court and a pending appeal could potentially be taken up by the U.S. Supreme Court. For a more detailed history of the New Jersey litigation, please see Volume 22, Issue 25 of the Michigan Gaming Newsletter, [click here](#).

MGCB RELEASES NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017

The Michigan Gaming Control Board (“MGCB”) announced that it will hold its regular public meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at the MGCB Detroit Office, Cadillac Place, 3062 West Grand Blvd., Suite L-700, in Detroit.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the staff briefing, followed immediately by the agenda items. The Cadillac Place is in Detroit’s New Center Area near the John Lodge Freeway (M-10), between Second Avenue and Cass Avenue. The Fisher Building and the Albert Kahn Building are nearby landmarks.

For more information regarding the MGCB, please visit its website at www.michigan.gov/mgcb.

MICHIGAN LOTTERY TEAMS UP WITH SELECT SECRETARY OF STATE BRANCHES TO PROCESS PRIZE CLAIMS

On February 21, 2017, the Michigan Lottery (“Lottery”) announced that it has teamed up with the Michigan Secretary of State (“SOS”) in order to introduce a pilot program that began February 23, 2017, which enables Lottery players to submit claims on prizes ranging from \$601 up to \$50,000 at select SOS branches. The SOS branches participating in the program are located throughout northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

Specifically, branches are located in:

- Escanaba, located at 305 Ludington Street
- Grayling, located at 2384C South I-75 Business Loop
- Marquette, located at 2025 U.S. 41 West
- Sault Ste Marie, located at 2700 Davitt Street

Currently, prizes of \$600 or less can be claimed at

Lottery retailers across Michigan whereas prizes of \$601 to \$50,000 may be claimed at Lottery offices, bank claim centers, or participating SOS branches. Any prize claim of \$50,001 or greater must be made by an appointment with the Lottery’s Public Relations Division.

According to the Lottery, players who submit a claim for a Lottery prize at a SOS branch will receive payment via electronic funds transfer to a valid bank account the following business day. Claims must include a winning ticket, valid photo ID, Social Security card, and bank account information.

MGM RESORTS TO LAUNCH RESPONSIBLE-GAMING PROGRAM

On February 22, 2017, MGM Resorts International announced a partnership with British Columbia Lottery Corp. (“BCLC”), British Columbia’s provincial gambling corporation, in order to license its responsible gambling program, GameSense. MGM anticipates that this program will be shared with its customers at all of its properties across the United States within a year. According to MGM, this marks the first time in which a program of this kind is being licensed by any commercial gaming company in North America. GameSense is an innovative, player-focused responsible gambling program that encourages players to adopt behaviors and attitudes that can reduce the risk of developing gambling disorders.

“We believe it’s our role to take the lead in providing better responsible gambling programming that supports our players, helps reduce harm and strengthens the gaming industry as a whole,” said Jim Lightbody, BCLC President and CEO. “We are thrilled MGM Resorts recognizes the value of our GameSense program, and wants to align with us to further the positive role it can play in reducing gambling-related harm.”

Additionally, MGM will donate \$1 million over five years to the University of Nevada Las Vegas's International Gaming Institute to conduct research on compulsive gambling with the help of data gained through the GameSense program. Bo Bernhard, Executive Director of UNLV's International Gaming Institute, said he hopes the research will better educate playing customers with information that will enable them to make better consumer decisions. For Bernhard, this customer education is akin to the informational available to consumers via nutrition labels on food products.

"MGM is excited to adopt the GameSense platform and to form this dynamic research enterprise," said Alan Feldman, MGM Resorts International Executive Vice President of Global Industry Affairs. "Our vision for GameSense is to transform the guest experience at our properties by providing a program that is rooted in enhanced customer service, player education, and leading research."

Currently, MGM Resorts has locations in Nevada, Mississippi, New Jersey, Michigan, Illinois, and Maryland in addition to its Massachusetts property under construction.

GUN LAKE TRIBE AND GUN LAKE INVESTMENTS OPEN FIRST NON-GAMING BUSINESS

On February 20, 2017, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomini Indians ("Gun Lake Tribe") or ("Tribe") and Gun Lake Investments ("GLI") celebrated the grand opening of its first non-gaming economic development project, Noonday Market. The project is a \$4.4 million fuel and convenience store near the south of Gun Lake Casino's main entrance.

"This is a special milestone because we are celebrating the opening of our first non-gaming business," said Gun Lake Tribe Chairman, Scott Sprague. "My hope is many years from now our people will see this as the beginning of a new journey towards economic diversification that

played a key role in securing the health and well-being of our Tribe."

Gun Lake Investments was created by the Tribe to serve as an independent economic development company, headed by CEO Kurt Trevan, which seeks business opportunities outside of casino gaming.

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BAND OF ODAWA INDIANS ANNOUNCES PAYMENTS EXCEEDING \$3 MILLION

On February 16, 2017, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians ("Tribe") announced an annual revenue payment of more than \$2.7 million to the state of Michigan and its upcoming semiannual payment of over \$535,000 to Emmet County within the next two weeks.

"We are proud to be able to make such a significant contribution each year to our local community, said Eric McLester, General Manager of Odawa Casino. "Not only does the community benefit through sharing in the revenue generated by Odawa Casino, but also through the nearly 550 jobs it provides to local citizens, both tribal and non-tribal."

According to the tribe, its annual revenue sharing payments made to the state and its semi-annually payments to Emmet County have totaled over \$50 million dollars since they began in 1999.