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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



MICHIGAN INTRODUCES ADVANCED DEPOSIT WAGERING HORSE RACING BILL

On January 15, 2019, Senator Dan Lauwers (R-District 25) introduced a bill for the 2018-2019 legislative session authorizing and regulating advanced deposit wagering for horse racetracks in Michigan (SB 12). Senator Lauwers previously served as a representative in the State House from 2015 through 2018. SB 12 is identical in content to the ADW bill that Senator Lauwers introduced in the 2017-2018 legislative session as HB 4611, a bill that was passed as part of an omnibus gaming package of bills but vetoed by former Governor Rick Snyder before he left office.

The bill seeks to amend Michigan's Horse Racing Law of 1995 to allow electronic wagering on both in-state horse races as well as out-of-state simulcasted horse races. As before, the bill would require a third party facilitator licensee to contract with a horse track within the State of Michigan. SB 12 has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

THREE ST. CLAIR COUNTY RESIDENTS CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL GAMBLING

Three St. Clair County residents appeared in Macomb County's 39th District Court on January 23, 2019, electing to waive their preliminary examination on multiple felony and misdemeanor gambling charges. They will be tried in Macomb County Circuit Court.

Following a joint investigation by the Michigan Gaming Control Board, Roseville Police Department and the Michigan Department of Attorney General, it is alleged that the two men and one woman conducted an illegal gambling operation in 2018 at the 777 Café located at 32488 Gratiot Avenue in Roseville. The trio, a 53-year-old father David Hoppe and his 29-year-old son, Lucas Hoppe, along with 64-year-old Denise Hagan, were previously released on bond following a December 19th arraignment hearing.

The defendants are charged with four counts—conducting gambling operations and using a computer to commit a crime, both felonies punishable by up to 10 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000, maintaining a gambling house for gain, a misdemeanor punishable by up to two years in prison or a fine up to \$1,000, and a second using a computer to commit a crime, a felony punishable by up to four years in prison and/or a fine up to \$5,000. David Hoppe had previously pled guilty in 72nd District court in 2013 to a one-year misdemeanor charge of maintaining a gaming or gambling place. As part of his plea arrangement in that case, David Hoppe agreed he would not make available to the public any gaming machines not certified as non-gambling devices by either the MGCB or a laboratory the MGCB deemed eligible to test and certify such machines. By pleading to the lesser charge, he avoided a 10-year felony charge of conducting a gambling operation where wagering was used without a license.

The investigation was triggered by a series of tips. Mr. Hoppe claimed that the slot-style gaming terminals were certified and approved by the MGCB, which the MGCB denies. In a June raid, investigators seized 19 gaming terminals, gaming receipts and an undisclosed amount of cash.

In a press release that can be found [here](#), Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel stated: “Gambling is a highly regulated industry in our state and we are committed to ensuring that any and all gaming is conducted according to the law.” “This investigation demonstrates a high level of cooperation between the City of Roseville, the Michigan Department of Attorney General and the Gaming Control Board,” said Richard Kalm, MGCB executive director. “We thank the public for their assistance in reporting illegal gambling.”

The MGCB urges residents to report illegal or suspicious gambling activity through its anonymous tip line, 888-314-2682.

MGCB CONSOLIDATES THE PERSONAL DISCLOSURE FORM

The Michigan Gaming Control Board’s Licensing Division has recently released an updated Personal Disclosure Form that is required to be completed by key persons of Gaming and Non-Gaming Supplier Licensees. The Personal Disclosure Form has been consolidated to be used as part of the initial filing and as part of the 5-Year Renewal process and is available on its [website](#) . This new form combines initial and 5-year renewal, removing the need for two separate applications. The updates provide unique functionality to simplify digital form-filling and improve accessibility. The new features include automatic calculations, field prepopulation, and integrated tables that were previously only available as a separate template.

BETTING ON SPORTS AMERICA TO HOST CONFERENCE IN APRIL

Betting on Sports America is the largest sports betting conference and exhibition in the US. The event will bring together key decision makers, expert speakers and 60 exhibitors that will use the 61,000 square foot exhibition floor to showcase their latest products and innovations. The event takes place April 23-25 in New York and New Jersey. Tuesday April 23 will feature a networking reception and a special Esports focus day; Wednesday April 24 and Thursday April 25 are the main conference and exhibition days at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in New Jersey, 3 miles out of Manhattan.

Betting on Sports America 2019 will feature over 1,500 delegates, 175 leading industry speakers, exhibitors, and networking receptions and parties. The agenda will including sessions on the following:

- Betting on Regulation
- Trading & Operators
- Sponsorship & Marketing
- Sport in Focus

- Sports & Betting
- States of the Nation
- Demystifying Sports Betting

Confirmed speakers will include Hard Rock International SVP Online Gaming Kresimir Spajic, Pinnacle's CEO Paris Smith, Foxwoods Executive Director Seth Young, SG Games DonBest Sports President Benjie Cherniak, Mississippi Gaming Commission Executive Director Alan Godfrey, Missouri Lottery & NASPL Executive Director & President May Scheve, and many others.

Registration for the event can be completed [here](#).