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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



MICHIGAN SMOKING BAN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Yesterday, the Michigan House of Representatives passed Substitute for House Bill 5074, calling for a ban on smoking in public places and in the work place. HB 5074 was passed by a 65-39 margin. Importantly, the proposed bill contains an exemption for the three Detroit casinos, and is similar to House Bill 4163, which the House passed on December 5, 2007.

House Bill 5074, introduced in August of 2007, was originally oriented towards a smoking ban in college dormitories. The recently amended version of the bill, as passed by the House, includes language addressing smoking in the workplace and carves out exemptions for Detroit's three commercial casinos. Bingo halls, tobacco shops, cigar bars and horse tracks would also be exempt under the proposed bill passed by the House yesterday.

Previously, on May 8, the Michigan Senate passed Senate Substitute for House Bill 4163, banning smoking in public places; including bars, restaurants, indoor areas and the Detroit casinos. The proposed legislation passed the Michigan Republican-controlled Senate by a vote of 25-12 and remains pending in the Michigan House.

Yesterday, rather than dealing with the Senate Substitute for HB 4163, the House chose to modify the pending House Bill 5074.

This new bill now goes to the Senate for a vote. By using HB 5074 as a vehicle, the House is able to get a second chance in the Senate for a vote on a bill with the exemptions for Detroit casinos included. The House also remains in possession of Senate Substitute for HB 4163.

HB 5074, as well as the Senate Substitute for House Bill 4163, do not impose smoking restrictions on Michigan's Native American casinos currently operating under Class III Gaming Compacts entered between the various Michigan tribes and the State of Michigan as a result of Tribal sovereignty.

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In order for the current draft legislation to become law, it will need to pass the Michigan Senate, and then need to be signed into law by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm. If the Senate were to make additional changes, or add certain exemptions to the bill, then the legislation would return to the House for approval.

The current version of HB 5074, as passed yesterday by the Michigan House of Representatives, may be viewed by clicking [here](#).

DETROIT REGIONAL CHAMBER'S 28TH ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE

Wednesday, May 28, 2008 marked the first day of the 28th annual Detroit Regional Chamber Policy Conference on Mackinac Island, which runs through Saturday, May 31. The conference gives Michigan's political leaders the chance to meet and deliberate with business and service communities from across the state. An estimated 1,700 people are expected at the conference, more than eighty of whom are members of Michigan Legislature. Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm is also attending.

A number of speakers are scheduled for each day of the conference, geared towards improving the state of Michigan both socially and economically. Speakers for the event include: Richard E. Blouse, Jr., president & CEO, Detroit Regional Chamber, Lou Glazer, president & co-founder, Michigan Future Inc., Paul Hillemonds, senior vice president, corporate affairs, DTE Energy, Philip Power, founder & president, Center for Michigan, Dr. John Schwarz, former U.S. Representative, Daniel J. Loepp, president & CEO, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, and Robert Riney, executive vice president and COO, Henry Ford Health System.

Sponsors of the four-day conference include many prominent businesses such as Fifth Third Bank, McLaren Healthcare Corp., T-Mobile, Sprint and Motorola, Northwest Airlines Inc., DTE Energy, and Plante and Moran PLLC.

The Detroit Regional Chamber has established a website with live coverage and video highlights of the conference at: www.detroitchamber.com.

MICHIGAN OFFICE OF RACING COMMISSIONER TO HOLD HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO RACING COMMISSIONER GENERAL RULES

On Tuesday, June 24, 2008 the Michigan Office of Racing Commissioner (ORC) will hold a public meeting at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment on proposed changes to the Racing Commissioner General Rules. According to a press release issued by the ORC, these proposed Rule changes include:

- Revise R 431.1301 (5) to more efficiently manage a horse's use of controlled medications and alter how horses are registered for participation in the furosemide program to be comparable with other racing jurisdictions.
- Revise R 431.3090 (3) to raise the eligibility age of a "maiden" Thoroughbred horse from 5 years to 7 years.
- Revise R 431.4205 (1)(2)(3)(4) to provide consistency among the racetracks regarding cancellation of Standardbred races due to inclement weather conditions.

The ORC's press release goes on to provide, "The proposed revisions to the Racing Commissioner General Rules are being promulgated to offer Michigan horse owners, trainers and tracks the opportunity to compete more fairly with other racing jurisdictions by providing more opportunities for both Michigan horses and tracks to offer better racing programs for more and better horses and additional revenue."

This public meeting will be held in the Brake Conference Room, Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933.

Written comments on the proposed Rule changes may be submitted to the ORC by 5:00 p.m. on June 30 at the following address:

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