

June 7, 2019

Volume 25, Issue 16

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

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

Reporter and Junior Editor

Julie Williams
Phone: 517.507.3861
jwilliams@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 GAMING-RELATED LEGISLATION UPDATE

On Tuesday, June 4, 2019, the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing in which it was anticipated to take up the package of Michigan gaming bills regarding the modernization of the Michigan Gaming Control Act, authorization and regulation of fantasy sports and iGaming, and revisions to regulations surrounding charitable gaming offering casino style games as part of millionaire parties and approval of advance deposit wagering at horse tracks. Additional details regarding the provisions contained in the gaming package may be found in [Volume 25, Issue 12 of the Michigan Gaming Newsletter](#).

At the hearing, Chairman Brandt Iden, R-District 61, surprised the audience by announcing that the committee would not be taking up any of the bills as the Governor's office had recently released additional requests regarding the structure and taxation provisions contained in the iGaming bill that would require additional discussion among Michigan tribal casinos, the three Detroit casinos and other interested parties. Michigan's House of Representatives is scheduled for 9 additional sessions on June 11-13, June 18-20, and June 25-27 before breaking for the summer, raising questions of whether the gaming package will be voted out of the House prior to the summer recess.

In addition to the gaming package of bills, Rep. Ryan Berman, R-District 39, introduced HB 4686 on May 28, 2019, seeking to amend the disassociated persons procedures to allow for a person to petition after five years to have his/her name removed from the list. Currently, Michigan law mandates that people remain on the disassociated list for the remainder of their lives. HB 4686 was referred to the House Committee on Regulatory Reform.

GUN LAKE TRIBE SHARES \$8.2 MILLION TO BENEFIT LOCAL SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY

Per a press release dated June 4, 2019, The Gun Lake Tribe (Tribe) announced details of its spring revenue sharing payments. The State of Michigan received \$4,603,777 and the local revenue sharing board received \$2,301,883. GLIMI, an economic development entity, received \$1,381,130. The figures are calculated from electronic gaming revenues reported from October 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

“We are pleased to continue sharing revenue with the local community,” said Bob Peters, Chairman of the Gun Lake Tribe. “The compact payments fund important local services, and K-12 public education programs, that greatly enhance the quality of life in our area.”

The Tribe’s state revenue sharing payments are dependent on the continued preservation of exclusive gaming rights within its competitive market area, as defined by the tribal-state gaming compact, which also includes statewide expansion of certain lottery games.

The Tribe has now shared more than \$80 million with the State of Michigan, which directs the payments to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The MEDC in turn awards grants to businesses to invest in Michigan and create jobs.

Gun Lake Casino opened in February 2011 and now employs over 1,100 team members. The Gun Lake Tribe has now shared \$126,655,194 with state and local governments over seventeen (17) distributions.

NOTTAWASEPPI HURON BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI ANNOUNCES REVENUE SHARING DISTRIBUTIONS FOR FIREKEEPERS CASINO

In the past decade, the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board has distributed more than

\$48.2 million to local governments and school districts.

In 2010, the first year of distributions, the board distributed about \$1.9 million.

This year, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, which owns the FireKeepers Casino Hotel, gave \$5.7 million to the board for distribution to local governments, school districts and other public bodies in Calhoun County. The tribe gave about \$18.5 million to the state of Michigan.

The payments are made as a reimbursement since the casino is tax exempt. Through a state compact, the tribe agreed to distribute 2% of its annual slot machine revenue from FireKeepers to the Local Revenue Sharing Board.

"The main thing here is we want to make sure that any municipality or organization that has increased costs due to the operations of the casino that they are reimbursed for that," said Jamie Stuck, Tribal Council chairperson and secretary of the Local Revenue Sharing Board. "That's a high priority."

THE KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY ANNOUNCES THEIR RECENT GAMING DISTRIBUTIONS

Since 1993 the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) has been making bi-annual payments from gaming proceeds of their casinos to local units of government and to the State of Michigan. These payments are 2% and 8%, respectively, and are derived from the net win from all Class III electronic games of chance commonly known as slot machines.

The two-percent (2%) payments are made each May and November. Local units of government may make requests throughout the year. To receive an award the entity must first make a request in writing.

For the period of October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019, the total to be distributed to local units

of government in Baraga County, which was derived from the Ojibwa Casino Resort-Baraga, was \$111,738.21.

Distributions totaling \$151,299.13 were made to local units of government in Marquette County.

Eight percent (8%) payments are made to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The May 2019 distribution for the Ojibwa Casino Resort-Baraga totaled \$446,952.76 and \$605,196.50 for the [Ojibwa Casino-Marquette](#).

For more information and a complete list of distributions, please visit the [Keweenaw Bay Indian Community website](#).

FIREKEEPERS CASINO 400 TAKING PLACE THIS WEEKEND AT MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY

The FireKeepers Casino 400 will be held June 7-9, with the big race happening on Sunday, June 9 at 2:00 pm. The FireKeepers Casino 400 is a 400-mile Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series stock car race held annually at Michigan International Speedway (MIS) in Brooklyn, Michigan.

Tickets are still available and can be purchased [here](#).

During race weekend at MIS, fans can stop at the FireKeepers Casino Hotel booth in Fan Plaza. In the booth, guests can spin the FireKeepers Prize Wheel to win a variety of FireKeepers and FireKeepers 400 swag. Red Hot Rewards Club members who show their cards will also receive a special prize. Plus, the FireKeepers Food and Beverage team will be at the race cooking up some fan favorite dishes.

To learn more about events taking place all weekend for the race, please visit the [FireKeepers Casino Hotel website](#).

JOSEPH C. MAHON TO HEAD NEW NYC LOCATION OF COOPER LEVENSON

This week, Cooper Levenson announced the law firm's expansion into New York City. Joseph C. Mahon, Esq., LL.M., formerly a partner of the firm, will return and assume the role of lead attorney for the firm's New York City office.

Cooper Levenson was founded in 1957 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The law practice began with 2 attorneys and has now expanded to 65 attorneys with offices in New Jersey, Delaware, Florida, Nevada – and now New York. The firm is known as one of the premier gaming, casino, and iGaming law firms in the United States.

“Having a physical location in New York City will enable us to better service our present and future national and international clients,” said Lloyd D. Levenson, Chief Executive Officer.

In his new role, Mahon will continue his work of more than 25 years, advising executives, business owners and high net worth clients on a range of issues.

A graduate of Rutgers University School of Law – Newark with a Juris Doctor and New York University School of Law with an LL.M. in Taxation, Mahon has been named to the Super Lawyers list in New York from 2012 – 2019 in the areas of estate planning and probate. He was also named to Best Lawyers in America 2017 - 2019.