

November 30, 2018

Volume 24, Issue 37

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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

Distribution Coordinator

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 HOUSE PASSES GAMING LEGISLATION

Yesterday, Thursday, November 29, 2018, the Michigan House passed legislation legalizing and regulating fantasy sports. HB 6419 passed by a vote of 87 yeas, 22 nays, and 1 abstention, while HB 6420 passed by a vote of 85 yeas, 24 nays and 1 abstention. HB 6419 amended the Michigan Penal Code to exempt fantasy sports from the criminal gambling definition and HB 6420 established a Fantasy Sports Consumer Protection Act governing and regulating fantasy sports. The bills will now go over to the Senate for consideration.

The fantasy sports bills are part of a number of gaming-related bills in the Legislature. Rep. Brandt Iden (R-District 61) has also sponsored legislation authorizing Internet gaming and wagering on sporting events (HB 4926 and 4927), both of which passed the House on June 12, 2018, and were referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations. The Senate also drafted legislation by Senator Mike Kowall (R-District 15) authorizing Internet gaming (SB 203, SB 204, SB 205), but that legislation, while passed out of the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee on March 9, 2017, has yet to be taken up on the Senate floor.

Other gaming-related bills currently pending include bills related to regulation of charitable Millionaire Parties and bills allowing third party facilitators to work with horse racetracks to offer wagering on live and simulcast horse races over the Internet and mobile phones. Finally, Rep. Iden has also introduced HB 5881 that seeks to amend the Michigan Gaming Control Act. While HB 5881 was passed out of the House Committee on Regulatory Reform on October 4, 2018, it has not been passed by the House on the floor. Any amendments to the Michigan Gaming Control Act require a supermajority vote of 3/4ths of both the House and the Senate.

Both the Michigan House and Senate have 9 additional sessions scheduled (December 4-6, 11-13 and 18-20) before the end of the year.

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS' GAMING PROJECT MOVES FORWARD IN MUSKEGON COUNTY

According to a [press release](#) dated November 23, a Muskegon County casino proposed by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has moved another step forward. The U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) today published the Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in the Federal Register as the next step in the environmental review to place land in trust for gaming purposes of the tribe.

The BIA announced a public hearing on the DEIS will be held December 12th at 6 p.m. at Fruitport Middle School auditorium. Community input will take place at the public hearing, where members of the public can comment on the Draft EIS published by the BIA. The BIA will also accept written comments. Written comments must be sent to the BIA before January 7, 2019. The DEIS, and an explanation of the review process is available at www.littlerivereis.com.

The Little River Band filed an application February 2015 requesting the BIA to place 60 acres of land in trust for a \$180 million casino and economic development project at the former Great Lakes Downs racetrack site in Fruitport Township. The project is expected to create more than 1,200 new jobs in Muskegon County.

The Little River Band's proposed gaming and economic development project would include:

- Approximately 69,000 square feet of gaming floor space
- 1,700 slot machines
- 35 table games
- 220-room hotel
- Conference and meeting room space
- Dining and entertainment options

"The opening of a casino in Fruitport Township will enable the Tribe to provide housing, health care, education and other services to our elders and youth, particularly those based in Muskegon

County, while providing more than 1,175 jobs and a positive economic impact for the local community," said Tribal Council Speaker Joseph Riley II. "The publishing of the Draft EIS is usually the longest step in the approval process so we couldn't be more pleased that the BIA is moving the process forward."

The proposed casino has received wide support from the community including support from Fruitport Township, Fruitport Community Schools, Muskegon County, West Michigan trade unions, and local businesses.

GUN LAKE TRIBE ADDS \$1.5 BILLION TO MICHIGAN'S ECONOMY OVER SEVEN YEARS

In a [press release](#) dated November 27, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians (Gun Lake Tribe) released the findings of an economic impact study (EIS) commissioned by the Tribe. The Innovation Group worked with the Tribe and its subsidiaries to summarize the findings of the EIS. The final report reveals that the Tribe, Gun Lake Casino, and Gun Lake Investments contributed \$1.5 billion to Michigan's economy from 2011-2017.

"We are proud to have contributed \$1.5 billion to Michigan's economy in the last seven years through the construction and operation of our gaming and government facilities, and non-gaming business activities," said Chairman Bob Peters. "Each year, this aggregate economic activity supports over 2,600 jobs and pumps \$228 million into the state's economy."

The Tribe directly employs 1,281 individuals within the government, gaming and investment operations. The Tribe's annual direct payroll is over \$48 million. Another \$36 million is spent by the Tribe annually on goods and services that are purchased from Michigan-based companies. The indirect and induced employment impact added to direct employment results in an annual total of 2,491 jobs that equates to an annual payroll of \$99 million.

The Tribe has shared more than \$109 million with the State and local entities since the opening of the Gun Lake Casino in 2011. Local distributions also reach school districts, law enforcement agencies, and infrastructure projects. The revenue sharing distributions now exceed \$15 million annually.

EIS also captured the economic impact of the Tribe's construction of the Gun Lake Casino, as well as numerous government facilities. The total construction budget for these facilities amounts to \$236 million, which contributed \$142 million to Michigan's economy. These projects created 1,439 construction jobs.

Click [here](#) to see the complete summary of the Gun Lake Tribe's Economic Impact Study.

RMC TO HOST FREE CYBER SECURITY WEBINAR

RMC will be hosting a free webinar on Thursday, December 13 from 2:00—3:30 PM ET. This webinar will focus on the following:

- Program Governance, Risk and Compliance
- Operational Cyber Perspectives
- Cyber Security Research and Trends
- Cyber Resilience -- A programmatic approach for detecting, responding to and recovering from cybersecurity events and incidents.

Speakers will include:

- **Ryan Guzal**, Cyber and Privacy Consultant, InterLAN Security, *Speaker*
- **Maureen Kaplan**, Vodafone Enterprise, Global Cyber Security Lead, *Speaker*
- **Tracy L. Lechner**, Esq., Law Offices of Tracy L. Lechner, LLP, *Speaker*
- **Robert Russell**, Gaming Analyst, Regulatory Management Counselors, P.C., *Moderator*

[Please click here to view the full webinar brochure or to register.](#)