

2017 – Bills Introduced to Open Additional Casinos in Connecticut

Currently there are two bills that have made their way through the committee process and may be coming to the legislature for a vote.

SB 957 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF GAMING AND THE AUTHORIZATION OF A CASINO GAMING FACILITY IN THE STATE.

To (1) regulate the operation of a casino gaming facility in Connecticut, and (2) authorize MMCT Venture, LLC, to operate a casino gaming facility in Connecticut subject to certain conditions.

HB 7239 ACT CONCERNING A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO QUALIFY AN ENTITY TO DEVELOP A CASINO GAMING FACILITY IN THE STATE.

To (1) regulate the operation of a casino gaming facility in Connecticut, (2) require the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to develop and issue a request for proposals for the development, management and operation of a casino gaming facility in Connecticut, and (3) permit the commissioner to issue one casino gaming license.

The following article from CT News Junkie outlines the current discussion in the legislature on these bills.

http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/archives/entry/conversation_about_connecticut_casino_expansion_continues/

Contact your legislators now to let them know that LWVCT opposes all legislation that enables the expansion of casino-type gambling.

GAMBLING

[1994; amended and affirmed 2003; archived 2013]

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut opposes legalizing additional forms of gambling, and especially the expansion of casino gambling in Connecticut. The LWVCT opposes all legislation that enables the expansion of casino-type gambling – including, but not limited to blackjack, poker, craps, high-stakes bingo, roulette, or slot machines – in Connecticut, regardless of the venue or the sponsor of such gambling. The LWVCT supports the 2003 repeal of Connecticut’s so-called Las Vegas Nights legislation because we recognize that this legislation has facilitated the expansion of casino gambling in Connecticut.

In working to influence public policies on gambling the League will:

- strongly oppose legalization of additional forms of gambling;
- advocate for the repeal of any legislation that facilitates the expansion of casino gambling in the state;
- advocate for the adoption of legislative/regulatory safeguards – legal, environmental, social, economic, land use – to curtail further expansion of gambling in the state.

Expanded gambling is not an acceptable method of enhancing state and local government revenue or stimulating economic development.

Background and Action:

In August 2004, the Department of Interior, charged with reviewing the process by which it granted the recognition to the Schaghticoke Indian tribe, found no irregularity in the process. They found that no clear standard for granting federal recognition to tribes exists and that the regulations governing the Bureau of Indian Affairs are “permissive and inherently flexible.” Governor Rell strongly objected to this finding and requested that the Connecticut Congressional delegation take all the necessary steps to repair the “seriously flawed recognition process.” The LWVCT supported this initiative and thanked the Governor for her efforts. Eventually, the BIA reversed their recognition of the tribe.

In 2009, the Governor proposed generating revenue from online gambling (Keno). The LWVCT has not had a Gambling Specialist but we included the gambling issue when expressing concerns to the Governor and Legislature about some proposed budget cuts and revenue enhancement measures.