
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 11

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION OF A CASINO GAMING FACILITY IN EAST WINDSOR.

SUMMARY

This bill removes the requirement that the proposed commercial casino in East Windsor receive federal approval of the amendments to the Mashantucket Pequot procedures, Mohegan compact, and the memoranda of understanding (MOU) before the commercial casino is authorized. (Such amendments have received federal approval (see BACKGROUND).)

Current law requires, among other things, the amendments to be approved or deemed approved by the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) secretary, pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and its implementing regulations.

The bill also eliminates the provision in the law retracting the authorization if a court overturns DOI's approval in a final judgment that is not appealable.

By law, the amendments to the (1) compact and procedures must include a provision that MMCT's authorization to conduct authorized casino games in the state does not terminate the moratorium against operating video facsimile games and (2) MOUs must include a provision that MMCT's authorization to conduct authorized casino games in the state does not relieve the tribes of their obligation to contribute a percentage of the gross operating revenues of video facsimile games to the state under the MOUs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Federal Approval

On June 1, 2018, the DOI approved the amendments to the Mohegan compact and MOU (83 Fed. Reg. 25484). Then on March 25, 2019, the DOI approved the amendments to the Mashantucket Pequot procedures and MOU (84 Fed. Reg. 11122).

Off-reservation Commercial Casino

Once certain conditions are met, the law authorizes the operation of an off-reservation commercial casino gaming facility in East Windsor, Connecticut, subject to Department of Consumer Protection regulations. The law gives MMCT Venture, LLC, a company jointly owned and operated by the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, the exclusive right to conduct authorized games (i.e., games of chance) at the facility (CGS § 12-578f).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 5 (03/19/2019)