

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Regulated Industries Committee

BILL: SB 160

INTRODUCER: Senator Geller

SUBJECT: Indian Gaming Activities

DATE: January 25, 2007

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sumner	Imhof	RI	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	FT	_____
3.	_____	_____	GA	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill provides that the Governor is the designated state officer responsible for negotiating and executing tribal-state compacts relating to class III gaming. The Governor must submit a copy of any executed tribal-state compact to the Legislature for ratification by a majority vote by both houses and must submit a copy to the Secretary of State pending ratification. Once the compact is ratified, the Secretary of State must forward a copy of the compact and the ratification act to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for review and approval.

This bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Currently there is no statutory provision related to tribal-state compacts in Florida. Tribal-state compacts are an issue that Florida is facing with the recent passage of ch. 2005-362, L.O.F. codified at ch. 551, F.S. dealing with slot machine gaming.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA)¹ divides gaming into three types of classes. Class I gaming are social games solely for prizes of minimal value or traditional games which are played as part of or in connection with tribal ceremonies or celebrations.² Class I gaming is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the tribes.³

¹ 18 U.S.C. ss. 1166-1168 and 25 U.S.C. s. 2701 et seq.

² 25 U.S.C. 2703(6).

³ 25 U.S.C. 2710(a)(1).

Class II gaming includes bingo and lotto, and if played at the same location as bingo, pull-tabs, punch boards, and other games similar to bingo.⁴ Class II gaming also includes non-banking card games (such as poker) which are authorized by state law or not explicitly prohibited by state law.⁵ The card games must be played in conformity with any state laws or regulations regarding hours of operation and pot limits.⁶ A tribe may conduct class II gaming if: (1) the state in which the tribe is located permits such gaming for any purpose by any person, organization or entity; and (2) the governing body of the tribe adopts a gaming ordinance which is approved by the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.⁷ Class II gaming is regulated by the tribes with oversight by the commission.

Class III gaming includes all forms of gaming that are not class I or class II gaming such as banking card games, casino games, electronic or electromechanical facsimiles of games of chance, and pari-mutuel wagering.⁸

The Seminole and Miccosukee tribes currently have Class II slots which are bingo-style devices where players compete against each other.

Chapter 551, F.S. is the result of the passage of Amendment 4 to the State Constitution⁹ codified at s. 23, Art. X, Florida Constitution, which authorized slot machines at existing pari-mutuel facilities in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties upon an affirmative vote of the electors in those counties. Both Miami-Dade and Broward Counties held referenda elections on March 8, 2005.

The electors approved slot machines at the pari-mutuel facilities in Broward County, but the measure was defeated in Miami-Dade County. Under the provisions of the amendment, four pari-mutuel facilities are eligible to conduct slot machine gaming in Broward County: Gulfstream Park Racing and Casino, a thoroughbred permitholder; Pompano Park, a harness racing permitholder; Dania Jai Alai, a jai alai permitholder; and Mardi Gras Racetrack and Gaming Center, formerly known as Hollywood Greyhound Track, a greyhound permitholder. Gulfstream Park Racing and Casino was licensed to operate slots by the state on October 13, 2006 and opened on November 15, 2006. Mardi Gras Racetrack and Gaming Center was licensed on September 29, 2006 and opened on December 26, 2006. Pompano Park was licensed January 10, 2007 and Dania Jai Alai on January 17, 2007 and are expected to open in March 15, 2007 and the fall of 2008, respectively.¹⁰

Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) slot machines are considered Class III gaming and open up the possibility for the tribes to negotiate a compact with the state allowing slots in the tribal casinos.¹¹

⁴ 25 U.S.C. 2703(7)(A)(i).

⁵ Poker is authorized at the pari-mutuel facilities in Florida by s. 849.086, F.S.

⁶ 25 U.S.C. 2703(7)(A)(ii).

⁷ 25 U.S.C. 2710(b)(1).

⁸ 25 U.S.C. 2703(8).

⁹ The amendment was proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State on May 28, 2002 and adopted by the electorate at the General Election in 2004.

¹⁰ Information provided from the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering on January 31, 2007.

¹¹ 25 U.S.C. 2701, et seq.

The law provides that before a tribe may lawfully conduct Class III gaming, the following conditions must be met: (1) the particular form of Class III gaming that the tribe wants to conduct must be permitted in the state in which the tribe is located; (2) the tribe and the state must have negotiated a compact that has been approved by the Secretary of the Interior, or the Secretary must have approved regulatory procedures; and (3) the tribe must have adopted a tribal gaming ordinance that has been approved by the Indian Gaming Commission or its chairman.¹²

The compact may contain any subjects directly related to the operation of gaming activities. A state or political subdivision does not have authority to impose taxes, fees, charges, or other assessments upon tribes that seek to operate Class III gaming and a state is prohibited from refusing to negotiate based on the lack of authority in such state, or its political subdivision to, impose such a tax, fee, charge, or other assessment.¹³

A tribe may agree to pay assessments to a state or a political subdivision to defray the costs of state regulation of its Class III gaming activities and may agree to a payment in lieu of taxes to the state in amounts comparable to amounts assessed by the state for comparable activities.¹⁴

The IGRA provides, in relevant part, that an Indian tribe may initiate a cause of action 180 days after the date the tribe requested the state to enter into negotiations if (1) a tribal-state compact has not been entered into and (2) the state did not respond to the request of the Indian tribe or did not respond to the request in good faith.¹⁵

The U.S. Supreme Court held in part in *Seminole Tribe v. State of Florida* that the Eleventh Amendment prohibits an Indian tribe from suing a state in Federal court for an alleged failure of the state to negotiate a compact in good faith.¹⁶ The Department of Interior subsequently responded to the *Seminole* decision by publishing a regulation to address this issue.¹⁷

The regulation provides, in part, that an Indian tribe may ask the Secretary of the Interior to issue Class III gaming procedures when the following steps have taken place:

- (a) The Indian tribe submitted a written request to the State to enter into negotiations to establish a Tribal-State compact governing the conduct of Class III gaming activities;
- (b) The State and the Indian tribe failed to negotiate a compact 180 days after the State received the Indian tribe's request;
- (c) The Indian tribe initiated a cause of action in Federal district court against the State alleging that the State did not respond, or did not respond in good faith, to the request of the Indian tribe to

¹² 25 U.S.C. s. 2710(d).

¹³ 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(4).

¹⁴ *Id.* (Sometimes referred to as "revenue sharing.")

¹⁵ 25 U.S.C. s. 2710(d)(7)(B).

¹⁶ 517 U.S. 44, (1996).

¹⁷ 25 CFR 291.3. The states of Florida and Alabama have challenged the Secretary's authority to promulgate this regulation. *State of Florida and State of Alabama v. United States of America, United States Department of the Interior and Dirk Kempthorne in his official capacity as Secretary of the Interior and Seminole Tribe of Florida, Miccosukee Tribe of Florida and Poarch Band of Creek Indians*, Case No. 4:99-CV137-RH (N.D.Fla.).

- negotiate such a compact;
- (d) The State raised an Eleventh Amendment defense to the tribal action; and
- (e) The Federal district court dismissed the action due to the State's sovereign immunity under the Eleventh Amendment.

The U.S. Supreme Court also noted in its decision that the duty imposed by the IGRA to negotiate in good faith “is not likely to be performed by an individual state executive officer or even a group of officers.”¹⁸

In 1999, the states of Florida and Alabama challenged the Secretary’s authority to promulgate this regulation.¹⁹ The case was administratively closed in 2003 pending administrative action by the Department of Interior to promulgate rules. The Order further stated that the case will be reopened at the request of any party, if at any time further proceedings appear to be appropriate.

According to an affidavit of Jim Shore , General Counsel for the Seminole Indian Tribe,²⁰ the negotiations continued, compact negotiations began subsequent to the passage of the Constitutional Amendment authorizing slot machines. The affidavit further stated that negotiations continued on and off from June 6, 2005 until December 2006 but did not result in the negotiation of a compact. The affidavit further states that while the State of Florida agreed that the Seminole tribe was entitled to operate slot machines the state made unlawful demands for a major share of the tribal gaming revenues without providing substantial exclusivity or other valuable consideration.²¹

In July 2006, the Seminole Tribe, requested that the Secretary of Interior issue Class III Secretarial Procedures in order to comply with the governing provisions of 25 C.F.R. 291.8(c). On September 26, 2006, The Department of Interior responded to the Seminole Tribes request for Secretarial Procedures stating that the department was encouraged by the willingness of the State of Florida to negotiate a Class III gaming compact with the tribe. It stated further that the department had completed its review of the tribe’s application and would in the next 60 days, absent a negotiation of a compact between the tribe and state issue a final decision setting forth the proposed Class III gaming procedures of the tribe. The department did not issue procedures within the 60 days stated in the September 26, 2006 letter.

In January 2007, the Seminole Tribe moved to reopen the case against the Department of Interior and restore it to active status, amend the Court-approved Scheduling Report to provide for briefing on cross-motions for summary judgment no later than 45 days after the date of the Court’s Order and irrespective of when the secretary issues a decision on Secretarial Procedures;

¹⁸ 517 U.S. 44, at 75 n. 17 [citing *State ex rel. Stephan v. Finney*, 836 P. 2d 1169, 251 Kan. 559 (1992) that the Governor of Kansas may negotiate but may not enter into a compact without a grant of power from the Legislature].

¹⁹ 25 CFR 291.3.

²⁰ Affidavit of Jim Shore, *State of Florida and State of Alabama v. United States of America, United States Department of the Interior and Seminole Tribe of Florida, Miccosukee Tribe of Florida and Poarch Band of Creek Indians*, Case No. 4:99-CV137-RH (N.D. Fla. Filed January 16, 2007).

²¹ Id.

and direct the secretary to issue a final decision on procedures no later than 30 days after the court has acted on the motion.²²

On January 8, 2007, Governor Crist sent a letter to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne asking for the federal government to hold off on any action so his administration could enter into discussions with the tribe.²³

Several state supreme courts have reviewed whether the Governor of the state has the power to unilaterally negotiate and execute an Indian gaming compact. The Supreme Courts in the states of New Mexico, Kansas, Rhode Island, New York, and Wisconsin have held that the Governor does not have the power to bind the state to a tribal-state compact without legislative authority.²⁴

There are two federal district courts that have held that the Governor has the unilateral authority to negotiate and execute tribal-state Indian gaming compacts.²⁵ The state supreme courts that have addressed these two cases have dismissed their decisions as not well reasoned and distinguishable.²⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill provides that the Governor is the designated state officer responsible for negotiating and executing tribal-state compacts relating to class III gaming under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988.²⁷

The Governor must submit a copy of any executed tribal-state compact to the Legislature for ratification by a majority vote by both houses and must submit a copy to the Secretary of State pending receipt of ratification. Once the compact is ratified, the Secretary of State must forward a copy of the compact and the ratifying act to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for review and approval in accordance with the United States Code.²⁸

²² In the motion, counsel for the Seminoles stated that the Federal Defendants oppose the motion and were unable to resolve the matter and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians support the motion. The Seminole Tribe attempted to confer with the states of Florida, Alabama and the Miccosukee Tribe and were not able to resolve the issue.

²³ Jon Burstein, "Seminoles asks federal judge for OK on Vegas-style slot machines," *South Florida Sun Sentinel*, 17 Jan. 2007 (<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-cseminole17jan17.0.5424919.story?coll=sfla-news-broward>, last visited February 1, 2007).

²⁴ *State ex rel. Stephan v. Finney*, 251 Kan. 559, 836 P.2d 1169 (Kan. 1992); *State v. Johnson*, 120 N.M. 562, 904 P.2d 11 (N.M. 1995); *Narragansett Indian Tribe of R.I. v. Rhode Island*, 667 A.2d 280 (R.I. 1995); *Saratoga Co. Chamber of Commerce, Inc. v. Pataki*, 100 N.Y.2d 801, 798 N.E.2d 1047 (N.Y. 2003); and *Panzer v. Doyle* 271 Wis.2d 295, 680 N.W.2d 666 (Wisc. 2004)

²⁵ *State ex rel. Stephan v. Finney*, 251 Kan. 559, 836 P.2d 1169 (Kan. 1992); *State v. Johnson*, 120 N.M. 562, 904 P.2d 11 (N.M. 1995); *Narragansett Indian Tribe of R.I. v. Rhode Island*, 667 A.2d 280 (R.I. 1995); *Saratoga Co. Chamber of Commerce, Inc. v. Pataki*, 100 N.Y.2d 801, 798 N.E.2d 1047 (N.Y. 2003); and *Panzer v. Doyle* 271 Wis.2d 295, 680 N.W.2d 666 (Wisc. 2004)

²⁶ See *Panzer v. Doyle*, 680 N.W.2d at 687.

²⁷ *Supra* n. 1.

²⁸ 25 U.S.C. s. 2710 (d)(3)(B).

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

While the bill itself has no impact, if a compact is negotiated, it could financially benefit the state.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
