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The MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



FIREKEEPERS CASINO BEGINS DEALER SCHOOL

On Monday, May 4, FireKeepers Casino announced the commencement of its dealer school, in an effort to fill its estimated 1,500 staff positions for a grand opening this summer.

For more information regarding employment please visit: www.firekeeperscasino.com/default/index.cfm/employment.

Nearly 300 pre-qualified individuals will be taking part in the 12-week training program, which will provide students with the instruction necessary to operate FireKeepers' 78 table games and 12 table live Poker Room.

"We are looking for energetic, friendly and hard working people to join our team," stated FireKeepers Casino General Manager, Bruce McKee. "The FireKeepers' Dealer School demonstrates our commitment to the applicants by providing skilled dealer training at no cost to them."

Those selected for dealer school will first be required to apply for a table game position on line and then pass the FireKeepers human resources and table games department pre-screening process.

Located on Michigan Avenue near Exit 104 of I-94, just outside of Battle Creek, Michigan, the FireKeepers Casino project is owned by the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians. The actual casino will be managed by Gaming Entertainment (Michigan), L.L.C., a joint venture between Las Vegas-based Full House Resorts Inc., and RAM Entertainment, L.L.C., a privately owned investment company.

MICHIGAN GAMING CONTROL BOARD RELEASES DETROIT CASINO REVENUES FOR APRIL 2009

Yesterday, the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) released the April, 2009 total adjusted revenue figures for the three Detroit casinos – MGM Grand Detroit Casino, MotorCity Casino and Greektown Casino. Overall, revenue was down 4.1 percent from the same reporting period last year. Specifically, revenue for Greektown casino was up by .06%, while revenue for MGM Grand and MotorCity casinos was down by 5.58% and 5.32% respectively, in comparison to the same month last year.

Month in 2009	Total Adjusted Revenue 2009					
	MGM Grand Detroit	MotorCity Casino	Greektown Casino	All Detroit Casinos		
	Total Adjusted Revenue	Total Adjusted Revenue	Total Adjusted Revenue	Total Adjusted Gross Receipts	Total State Wagering Tax	Total Detroit Wagering Tax
January	\$45,760,680.80	\$36,824,138.17	\$24,331,489.11	\$106,916,307.76	\$9,633,480.49	\$11,897,192.47
February	\$49,452,574.79	\$40,001,069.14	\$27,507,991.91	\$116,961,635.84	\$10,574,212.18	\$13,023,898.23
March	\$48,417,844.13	\$41,632,619.57	\$29,974,562.14	\$120,025,025.84	\$10,921,009.58	\$13,382,473.44
April	\$44,249,852.45	\$38,539,338.93	\$28,589,866.54	\$111,379,057.92	\$10,165,298.35	\$12,426,215.98
Total	\$187,880,951.85	\$156,997,165.81	\$110,403,909.70	\$455,282,027.36	\$41,294,000.60	\$50,729,780.12

The figures above do not include: 1) wages and benefits paid to casino employees; and 2) payments to suppliers, service providers or vendors.

For Greektown Casino, the State of Michigan's share of the wagering tax is 12.1% and the City of Detroit's share is 11.9%, for a total tax of 24%. This 24% tax historically applied to all three Detroit casinos.

MGM Grand Detroit and MotorCity Casino have received a tax base reduction certification as a result of their facilities being declared "fully operational" by the MGCB. These properties are now subject to a wagering tax of 19%, with a 10.9% of this levy to go to the City of Detroit and 8.1% to be paid to the State of Michigan.

NEW INTERNET GAMBLING LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

On Wednesday, May 6, Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.), chairman of the House Financial Services Committee and Representative and Jim McDermott (D-WA) introduced two new bills, which together would allow Americans to legally gamble on line and ensure that taxes are collected from wagers placed over the Internet. According to a recent study by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the U.S. Treasury could stand to gain \$48.6 billion annually by taxing online gambling companies.

The Internet Gambling Regulation Consumer Protection and Enforcement Act of 2009, introduced by Rep. Frank, effectively seeks to repeal the Unlawful Internet Gaming Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA), which prohibits Internet gaming businesses from operating in the United States. The proposed

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legislation would establish an enforcement framework to allow licensed gambling operators to accept wagers from people in the United States and provide consumer protections, including safeguards against compulsive and underage gambling, money laundering, as well as fraud and identity theft. The legislation introduced by Rep. McDermott seeks to ensure that individual corporate taxes owed on regulated Internet gambling activities are collected.

Chairman Frank also introduced a separate bill, the Reasonable Prudence in Regulation Act of 2009, which seeks to place a one year moratorium onto the UIGEA.

“The government should not interfere with people’s liberty unless there is a good reason,” stated Frank.

According to the Safe and Secure Internet Gambling Initiative, it is estimated that millions of Americans are currently wagering more than \$100 billion annually with offshore Internet gambling operations, despite the prohibition imposed under the UIGEA. Under the UIGEA, it is against the law for credit card companies and banks to process bets placed on online gambling web sites.

Notably, yesterday, *The Las Vegas Review Journal* reported that Las Vegas based Harrah’s Entertainment has shown support for the proposed legislation. In addition, it was reported that the casino company spent \$405,087 in the first quarter and registered as a lobbyist, in an attempt to gain support for the new proposal.

Historically, there have been four other unsuccessful bills submitted to Congress that sought to legalize online gambling. Recently, during the 110th Congress Chairman Frank introduced the Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007. Importantly, this will be the first attempt to legalize online wagering under President Barack Obama.

To obtain a copy of the new legislation click [here](#).