

**March 22, 2019**

**Volume 25, Issue 8**

For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit [www.michigangaming.com](http://www.michigangaming.com)

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A publication of  
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# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## **MICHIGAN COMMITTEE REPORTS OUT GAMING BILL PACKAGE**

On Tuesday, March 19, 2019, the House Regulatory Reform Committee convened and took up a package of gaming bills. The bills included HB 4173 (revisions to charitable gaming and specifically millionaires parties), HB 4307 (a modernization effort of the Michigan Gaming Control Act), HB 4308 and 4309 (bills legalizing fantasy sports and providing for its regulation and criminalization of unlicensed operators), HB 4310 (authorizing advanced deposit wagering for Michigan's horse tracks), and HB 4311 and 4312 (providing for the authorization and regulation of iGaming). As the Committee had previously taken testimony at its March 12 hearing, Chairman Webber indicated that the Committee would not take additional testimony. All seven bills were passed out of Committee and sent to the House Ways and Means Committee with a recommendation that they pass. The House Ways and Means Committee does not have a standing meeting and the Michigan Legislature is on recess for Spring Break until April 9.

## **LIVE RACING RETURNS TO MICHIGAN'S NORTHVILLE DOWNS THIS WEEKEND**

Tonight, live harness racing will return to Northville Downs. Live racing occurs every Friday and Saturday night from March 22 through June 8<sup>th</sup>, and then from September 13<sup>th</sup> through November 16<sup>th</sup>. The horse racing industry is celebrating 100 years of racing in Northville.

Northville Downs is the only licensed horse racing track in Michigan this year. Last April, the owners of the land where the track is located announced that they have entered into a contract to develop the land where the track is currently located. Hunter Pasteur Homes is the developer for the project, and is currently in the process of seeking the necessary government

approvals to develop the land into a mixed use development with commercial space and luxury homes, apartments and condos.

In connection with the announcement last April, the track stated that live harness racing and simulcast wagering will continue at the current location through 2020. Northville Downs also noted that it is exploring multiple other locations to develop a state of the art “gaming facility”.

Michigan currently does not have a thoroughbred racetrack although there is an ongoing effort under way by AmRace & Sports, LLC (“AmRace”) to bring thoroughbred racing to the Sports Creek facility near Flint, Michigan. AmRace acquired the Sports Creek Racing facility in mid-December 2018 and immediately commenced renovation work. Michigan Gaming has confirmed that site improvements are continuing and AmRace has indicated that it plans to submit an application to the Michigan Gaming Control Board in August for racing to occur in 2020.

## **GAMING STANDARDS ASSOCIATION REPORTS SUCCESS WITH CDI STANDARD IN OHIO**

This week, the Gaming Standards Association (GSA) issued a press release reporting that its Certification Database Interface (CDI) standard, which helps to compile information from multiple independent test labs for gaming equipment, has met with “a great deal of success” for the Ohio Casino Control Commission. The Ohio Commission has been using the CDI standard since January 2018.

The Commission’s Manager of Compliance and Gaming Christopher Fleenor said, “Ohio utilizes multiple independent laboratories for testing of gaming equipment. Having this type of setup introduces several logistical issues when collecting testing data from the various sources. CDI has been our solution to these logistical issues.”

“We are thrilled with the success the Ohio Casino Control Commission is experiencing with the CDI

standard. For more than 20 years, GSA, our members, and our volunteers have been dedicated to streamlining a wide range of processes in the gaming industry with the goal of making doing business easier and more profitable. Ohio’s success with CDI is a perfect example of why we do what we do,” said Peter DeRaedt, GSA President.

GSA’s CDI standard enables gaming commissions like the Ohio Casino Control Commission to receive consistent, defined data from each lab, allowing for the ability to fuse all of the data into a single data repository easily. Additionally, CDI allows for automatic synchronized data with each lab, in real time, as changes occur. Last, with CDI, commissions can easily expand the defined data and functionality of CDI to exchange information with casino operators and manufacturers.

GSA’s CDI standard is based on HTTP/REST and JSON and includes a standard interface for exchanging product approval information amongst regulators, test labs, and suppliers. Information exchanged can include certification requests, product component information, pay table information, software signatures, associated documents, and more. The CDI standard is considered open and available to the public for free.

For more information, visit [gamingstandards.com/standards](http://gamingstandards.com/standards).

## **IAGA ANNOUNCES FREE WEBINAR: CRITICAL ISSUES IN RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING**

IAGA is offering a free webinar series focusing on critical issues facing global gaming. This webinar will be held on Wednesday, April 17 at 9 am PST.

This webinar focuses on using responsible gambling programs to minimize the negative social impacts associated with excessive gambling. This panel will look at responsible gambling programs and planning present for different industry stakeholders - operators,

manufacturers, and new game designers, with a focus on how they balance this issue with the need to continually innovate and develop their business.

The webinar will be moderated by **Brett Abarbanel**, Director of Research for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) International Gaming Institute. The panelists are:

- **Blaine Graboyes**: CEO, GameCo
- **Connie Jones**: Director of Responsible Gambling, Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM)
- **Jennifer Shatley**: Principal Consultant, Logan Ave. Consulting and Responsible Gaming Advisor to Caesars Entertainment
- **Rich Taylor**: Executive Director of Responsible Gaming and Military Affairs, MGM Resorts International

Please [click here](#) to register and receive more information.

## AGENDA FOR SOUTHERN GAMING SUMMIT RELEASED

This year's Southern Gaming Summit is being held May 7-9 in Biloxi Mississippi. Recently, the full agenda for the program was released. The conference is jam-packed with content and will cover a wide range of topics including:

- The Future of Gaming
- Internet Sports Betting (with a panel moderated by Daniel Wallach and featuring Jake Williams, Jay McDaniel of the Mississippi Gaming Commission, and Tommy Shepard, Jones Walker).
- Curated Sound and Video for Casinos
- Presidents Forum: Southern Leaders
- Geofencing Marketing for Casinos
- Using Sports Betting to Enhance Landbased and Mobile Offerings
- Leveraging Electronic Table Games for Increased Profitability
- Esports in the Regional Markets
- Using AI in Communications to Enhance the Guest/Player Experience

- Active Shooter Preparedness-A Step by Step Guide
- Title 31/AML Compliance

Additionally, the conference will have several "Keynote" Speeches including:

- "The Future of Gaming" with Keynote Speaker Gavin Isaacs, Chairman SBTech
- Global Gaming Women Keynote Luncheon
- Sara Slane, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs for the American Gaming Association

The conference ends with the Mississippi Gaming Hall of Fame Gala.

Please [Click here](#) to register for this conference.