



NH STATE SENATE
NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

Carole Alfano, 603.271.7585

Sen. Morse statement regarding casino gambling becoming law in MA

Says NH's competitive advantage over Mass is threatened; calls for NH to make casinos legal

Concord, NH – Sen. Chuck Morse (R-Salem), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, issued the following statement today in reaction to Governor Deval Patrick signing casino gambling legislation into law in Massachusetts:

"Now that casino gambling is legal in Massachusetts, our competitive advantage with Massachusetts is threatened. New Hampshire should not, and will not stand by and let this happen. We have a tremendous economic opportunity here that we simply cannot allow to just slip away.

In early January, New Hampshire legislators will deliberate on a bill allowing two casinos in the Granite State that will create thousands of jobs. If passed, this legislation will also ensure that a significant percentage of the millions of dollars New Hampshire residents currently spend out of state on gambling will remain here. Additionally, we will see Massachusetts residents and visitors from other states patronize our casinos, which will further boost our state's economy instead of enhancing theirs. Casinos do have their detractors, and I respect that, but their benefits are also undeniable, including the opportunity to bring much-needed tax relief to our business community. Companies large and small will then go on to create more jobs in the private sector. They'll be doing so at a time when our 40,000 unemployed citizens need them the very most. This is too significant of an opportunity for New Hampshire to ignore."

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