



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1008

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**SPEAKER DELEO ANNOUNCES PROPOSAL TO SPUR JOB CREATION AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Details Expanded Gaming Proposal; Focuses on Long-Term Job Creation

(BOSTON) – House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo today announced his expanded gaming proposal aimed at creating jobs and stimulating economic growth throughout the Commonwealth.

“The legislation I’m proposing to you today is a jobs bill,” Speaker DeLeo said. “It creates a new sector of our economy that will create jobs and help keep our residents employed.”

Pointing towards the creation of construction jobs as well as permanent jobs at gaming facilities, Speaker DeLeo said the bill will generate long-term employment opportunities for the people of Massachusetts.

“This bill creates long-term jobs through the creation of two resort casinos,” DeLeo said. “It is a balanced approach that maximizes the benefit to Massachusetts. It helps our economy by directly creating construction, hotel and service industry jobs.”

To ensure ample gaming development which will maximize jobs as well as revenue, the bill requires casino applicants to commit to spending a minimum of \$500 million in capital investments in order to receive a license.

“This means they will have to build a resort hotel as well as other amenities,” Speaker DeLeo said. “Over the long term, these resorts will also employ thousands of our residents.”

In addition to permitting two resort casinos, Speaker DeLeo’s proposal will allow up to 750 slot machines at each of the state’s four racetracks to grow and retain jobs at these venues while bringing much-needed revenue to the state.

“My concern is for the workers who struggle every day to make a living,” Speaker DeLeo said. “These jobs are so important because they support families. Until resort casinos come online, the revenue generated from these facilities will go to help our cities and towns.”

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Speaker DeLeo went on to outline the bill's use of gaming revenue and licensing fee revenue to invest in job growth programs and support the state's cities and towns.

"We will reinvest the funds we garner through gaming licenses in our state," Speaker DeLeo said. "We will distribute this money to fund manufacturing, workforce partnerships, tourism and local capital projects. A portion of the annual gaming revenue, in turn, will go towards local aid, the rainy day fund and education."

Elaborating on the legislation's effort to stabilize the financial footing of the Commonwealth's cities and towns, Speaker DeLeo reiterated the House's commitment to a strong partnership with municipalities.

"Added to the local option taxes made available this year and other forms of municipal relief, the House continues to work on ways to strengthen our partnership with cities and towns," Speaker DeLeo said. "This initiative is another element of that overall effort."

Remaining cognizant of the need to update and strengthen laws to safeguard against any improprieties, Speaker DeLeo highlighted provisions that would enhance the state's ability to crackdown on wrongdoings that may arise as a result of gaming.

"We have taken steps to create a strong regulatory structure to oversee this new field and strengthen the Attorney General's ability to enforce the law," Speaker DeLeo said.

The Speaker – citing numerous conversations with advocates – acknowledged the potential social costs of gaming while stressing the fact that unemployment puts a similar strain on lives and detailing the bill's funding of addiction programs.

"I am aware of the concerns surrounding addiction and gambling," Speaker DeLeo said. "For this reason, the bill devotes significant resources to gambling addiction programs. With that said, I say once again that this bill is aimed at the social costs of joblessness, which weaken our society and imperil our families."

Representative Brian Dempsey, House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies, collaborated closely on the drafting of the legislation and applauded the proposal for bringing jobs and revenue to the Commonwealth.

"This bill will create jobs for people across the Commonwealth at a time when we need them most," Chairman Dempsey said. "Whether through construction jobs or jobs at gaming sites, the employment opportunities created through this bill will help put Massachusetts back to work. Plus, the revenue generated by the proposal will provide the resources needed to support economic growth initiatives as well as aid to our cities and towns."

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