

The Connecticut General Assembly



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DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS SUPPORT GAMING BILLS

State Representatives Christopher Rosario (Bridgeport D-128), **Ezequiel Santiago** (Bridgeport D-130) and **Michael DiMassa** (West Haven D-116) have filed legislation to allow new commercial gaming facilities to be developed in the state, establish a competitive process for licensing, and impose a tax of twenty-five per cent of the annual gross revenue generated at such facilities from slots and table games.

“We need jobs in Connecticut, and our economy needs help. Connecticut needs an open, competitive process, where the state –and the public – would evaluate competing proposals from world-class developers that must include plans for hiring during all phases of construction and when a casino begins operations,” **Rep. Rosario** stated. “The process we have now is nothing more than a string of missed opportunities and endless secrecy. We need a process that requires detailed proposals from potential developers that would promote local businesses, create jobs, and bring much-needed revenue to our communities and our state. We should not settle for anything short of the best deal possible. The current process doesn’t allow that. We need a new approach, and we need it now.”

Rep. Santiago said, “Legislation passed two years ago clearly isn’t working for Connecticut. It is time to require a fully transparent process run by the state, where potential casino developers present comprehensive proposals that spell out the hiring process and how area towns will benefit. We need to see competing proposals that outline precisely the dollars that would be paid not only to the state, but to the host community and adjacent municipalities – and where we can get the biggest bang for our buck. We can only decide what’s best for our communities and our residents if we outline specific requirements, and evaluate competitive development proposals. That’s the best way to decide if a commercial casino is the right move for Connecticut – who should build it, and where in the state it should be.”

“The state needs to step up and establish a competitive, transparent process if we are serious about licensing a commercial casino. Jobs need to be front and center, and the potential economic impact of a casino – for local residents, for the host community, for

neighboring communities, and for the state – must be thoroughly examined,” **Rep. DiMassa** said. “That’s only possible if we get to see competing proposals from world-class developers who are required by the state to provide details, based on specific criteria that will keep the public’s interest above all. I intend to support legislation that will achieve those objectives.”

The legislators have submitted legislation currently in committees of cognizance.

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