

New York State

Racing and Wagering Board

**1 Broadway Center - Suite 600
Schenectady, NY 12305**

www.racing.state.ny.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: JOE MAHONEY

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Phone: (518) 395-5400

CHAIRMAN SABINI: RACING AND WAGERING BOARD NOW FIELDING CASINO GAME APPLICATIONS

Under new powers granted to the New York State Racing and Wagering Board by Governor David A. Paterson, the Board will now act on behalf of the state in matters involving Native American gaming compacts and is empowered to approve or deny proposed casino games at tribal gaming establishments.

The directive, in part, effectively allows the Racing and Wagering Board to serve as a one-stop processing center to approve or deny applications from Native American Indian casinos to offer new games to patrons. The Board is now poised to make its decisions in rapid manner – thus cutting down on bureaucratic red tape that in the past has slowed the approval process.

Racing and Wagering Board Chairman John D. Sabini will discuss the protocol for the casino game application review when he presents a luncheon keynote speech this Tuesday, June 23, at the Eighth Annual New York Gaming Summit at the Gideon Putnam Resort in Saratoga Springs.

“I’m very pleased that Governor Paterson saw fit to give us this new task because it will help New York compete with Connecticut, Atlantic City and other out-of-state casino venues,” Chairman Sabini said. “It’s the first time any Governor of New York has handed this Board a general grant of authority in matters involving the Indian gaming compacts.” The Board was established in 1973.

Chairman Sabini added: “We are going to take a very balanced approach in reviewing these applications - one that is both business friendly by completing the reviews in an expeditious manner, while at the same time being thorough to ensure we achieve a full understanding of the rules of play, the true odds and the house advantage for each game that the tribes would like to roll out. The bottom line is to ensure that casino patrons, the tribes and the state itself get a fair deal.”

In addition to having the authority to decide if new games are introduced at the casinos, the Racing and Wagering Board, under the directive, is now empowered to make adjustments to the operational controls in the existing compacts between the tribes and the state.

At the Gaming Summit, Chairman Sabini also intends to discuss the interests of the Shinnecock Nation of Long Island in opening a casino, the prospects for a casino in the Catskills, trends in pari-mutuel wagering as well as the ongoing effort to locate a video lottery terminal parlor at Aqueduct Race Track in Queens.

Discussing the casino game reviews, Chairman Sabini said, “My goal is to have a process that is highly transparent. We will communicate our decisions – whether it be thumbs up or thumbs down – to the tribes, to the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Indian Gaming Commission and the New York State Police Gaming Detail.”

More information about the Gaming Summit can be obtained at www.nysummit.com. For information about Chairman Sabini’s speech and the work of the Racing and Wagering Board, contact Joe Mahoney at the Board by email – jmahoney@racing.state.ny.us – or telephone – 518-395-5400 Ext. 1805.