



**Press Release** from the Washington State Gambling Commission

Updated: January 13, 2015

Updated information in yellow highlight on page two.

The State of Washington and 27 of the 29 federally recognized Indian Tribes in Washington have reached a tentative agreement to amend their Tribal-State Gaming Compacts. Compacts are authorized under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Gambling Commission Chair Chris Stearns said: "I am pleased that State and Tribal negotiators were able to reach this important agreement in such a timely manner. I appreciate the hard work of all involved and am looking forward to hearing from the public, legislators and Tribes. The Commissioners' discussion and vote will occur at our February meeting."

Below is a summary of the proposed amendment:

- **Restriction on Electronic Benefits Cards** - Each Tribe must ensure all cash dispensing outlets and point of sale machines within its gaming facilities do not accept electronic benefits cards.
- **Player Terminal Allocations** - Each Tribe's allocation of player terminals (gaming machines) is increased from 975 to 1,075. The proposed amendment does not change the maximum number of machines allowed at a facility.
- **Annual Regulatory Fees** - The amendment eliminates the 10% pre-payment discount, credit, and alternative regulatory fee agreement options. Instead, regulatory fees for each Tribe's gaming activities shall be determined according to the Gambling Commission's current cost allocation model.
- **Problem Gambling Smoking Cessation Contributions** - Each Tribe's annual contributions towards problem gambling and smoking cessation services established in Appendix X2 shall be paid within one year of the close of the Tribe's fiscal year to match other required contribution timeframes.
- **Appendix X2 Addendum** - In addition to the allocation increase described above, each Tribe may increase its allocation by 50 player terminals, but only if the following conditions are met:

- A Tribe provides the Gambling Commission with written notice that there are 500 or fewer player terminals available for lease among all Tribes participating in the Tribal Lottery System, along with a certification from an independent accounting firm confirming the number of machines available.
- Within 30 days, the Gambling Commission reviews the certification and independently verifies the player terminals available for lease in the state. Any allocation change would be effective 30 days after notification by the Gambling Commission to the Tribe.
- Another increase cannot take place until another year has passed and only if the conditions above are met again.
- Tribes are limited to one 50 player terminal increase per twelve month period. However, if any Washington Tribe will operate more than 1,075 player terminals upon opening a new gaming facility, a Tribe can notify the Gambling Commission, and with Gambling Commission concurrence, receive an additional 50 player terminal increase within the twelve month period.
- If one Tribe receives an increase under this section, all other compacted Washington Tribes will receive the same increase.

### **The Process from Here**

1. Formal notification about the proposed Compact amendments are conveyed to the Governor, Legislature and others.
2. The designated standing committees of the Legislature will hold public hearings within 30 days after receiving the proposed Compact amendment (RCW 9.46.360).
  - a. The House held a hearing on Monday, January 12, 2015.
  - b. The Senate Commerce and Labor Committee is holding a hearing Wednesday January 21, at 1:30 p.m., in the Cherberg Building, Hearing Room #1.
3. The Gambling Commission will vote on Friday, February 13, 2015, and decide whether to forward the proposed Compact amendments to the Governor. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lion Hotel, 2300 Evergreen Park Drive, Olympia, Washington 98502, phone number: (360) 943-4000.
4. If the Commission approves each Tribe's amendment, it will be sent to the Tribal Chair for final consideration and signature.
5. If the Commission approves and the Tribal Chairs sign the amendments, they will be sent to the Governor for final consideration and signature.
6. After obtaining the signatures of the Tribal Chair and Governor, the Tribe will send it to the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior for consideration, signature, and publication in the Federal Register.

**For questions**, contact staff at the Washington State Gambling Commission:

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