



**PRESS RELEASE** from the Washington State Gambling Commission  
February 3, 2014

**Tribal and State negotiators have reached a tentative agreement with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community on an amendment to their Class III Gaming Compact.**  
See page 2 for a summary of the tentative agreement and the proposed compact amendment.

**Process:**

- When a tentative agreement with an Indian Tribe is reached, the proposed compact amendment is transmitted for a hearing before a standing committee of the State House of Representatives and the State Senate within 30 days of receipt, with comments forwarded to the Gambling Commission. Within 45 days after receiving the proposed compact amendment, the Gambling Commission, including ex officio members, will vote to determine whether to forward the proposed compact amendment to the Governor for review and execution or return it for further negotiation. During a legislative session, these time limits are each 45 days and 60 days, respectively. (RCW 9.46.360).

**Public Hearings:**

Public hearings provide the public with an opportunity for comment regarding the proposed Class III Gaming Compact Amendment.

- The Gambling Commission plans to hold its public hearing concerning the proposed Class III Gaming Compact Amendment on March 20, 2014, at the Comfort Inn Conference Center in Tumwater, Washington. The meeting agenda, including the time and location of the meeting, is available on our website ([www.wsgc.wa.gov](http://www.wsgc.wa.gov)). For questions about this hearing, please contact Susan Newer, Public Information Officer, Washington State Gambling Commission, at (360) 486-3466.
- The legislative hearings have not yet been scheduled. For questions about the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee hearing, please contact Thamas Osborn, Counsel for the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, at (360) 786-7129. For questions concerning the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee hearing, please contact Mac Nicholson, Counsel for the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, at (360) 786-7445.

**SUMMARY OF THE SWINOMISH INDIAN TRIBAL COMMUNITY  
PROPOSED COMPACT AMENDMENT**

- The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, 25 U.S.C. § 2701 *et. seq.*, provides that Indian tribes may conduct Class III gaming activities (*e.g.* Las Vegas-style games) on Indian lands when the gaming is conducted in conformance with a Tribal-State compact.
- RCW 9.46.360 provides that the Director of the Gambling Commission shall negotiate gaming compacts for the State, and must give notice of the proposed compacts to the Gambling Commission and the Legislature once a tentative agreement is reached.
- Within 30 days of receiving the proposed compact, a designated committee from each house of the Legislature must hold a public hearing on the compact and forward any respective comments to the Gambling Commission. Within 45 days of receiving the proposed compact, the Gambling Commission must vote on whether to forward the compact to the Governor for signature or to return it to the Director for further negotiations. During a legislative session, these time limits are each 45 days and 60 days, respectively.
- The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's Tribal-State Compact for Class III Gaming was originally signed on December 21, 1992, and has been amended four times.
- The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's proposed fifth amendment modifies Section III.M. of the Compact as follows:

Section III.        Nature, Size, And Scope of Class III Gaming

...

M. Prohibition on Minors

No person under the age of eighteen (18) shall participate in any gaming operation, or be allowed on the gaming floor authorized by this Compact during actual hours of operation. Persons between the age of eighteen (18) and twenty (20) years of age may patronize and participate in Class III gaming activities offered by the Tribe in its gaming facility, so long as such patrons do not purchase or consume alcoholic beverages on the premises. ~~Should alcoholic beverages be offered on the gaming floor pursuant to applicable law, then no patron under the age of twenty one (21) shall be permitted on the gaming floor during actual hours of operation.~~

- This proposed amendment modernizes the Compact by clarifying that patrons between 18 and 20 years of age may participate in gambling activities so long as they do not purchase or consume alcohol on the premises. The amendment language is consistent with several other tribes' gaming compacts.