Written by Administrator Saturday, 05 February 2011 18:22 -

HARRISBURG - When it comes to filling paid seats on the board that regulates Pennsylvania casinos, one party's "crony" is another party's "valuable contributor."

That was the case on Friday as both

parties' legislative leaders named people to the state Gaming Control Board who are better known for their past roles in the legislature.

When state House Minority Leader Frank Dermody (D., Allegheny) selected former House Speaker Keith McCall (D., Carbon) to serve on the board, the Republican House majority opened fire.

"This is the type of perceived cronyism that sets the stage for a lack of trust in Harrisburg," said Steve Miskin, spokesman for the House GOP caucus.

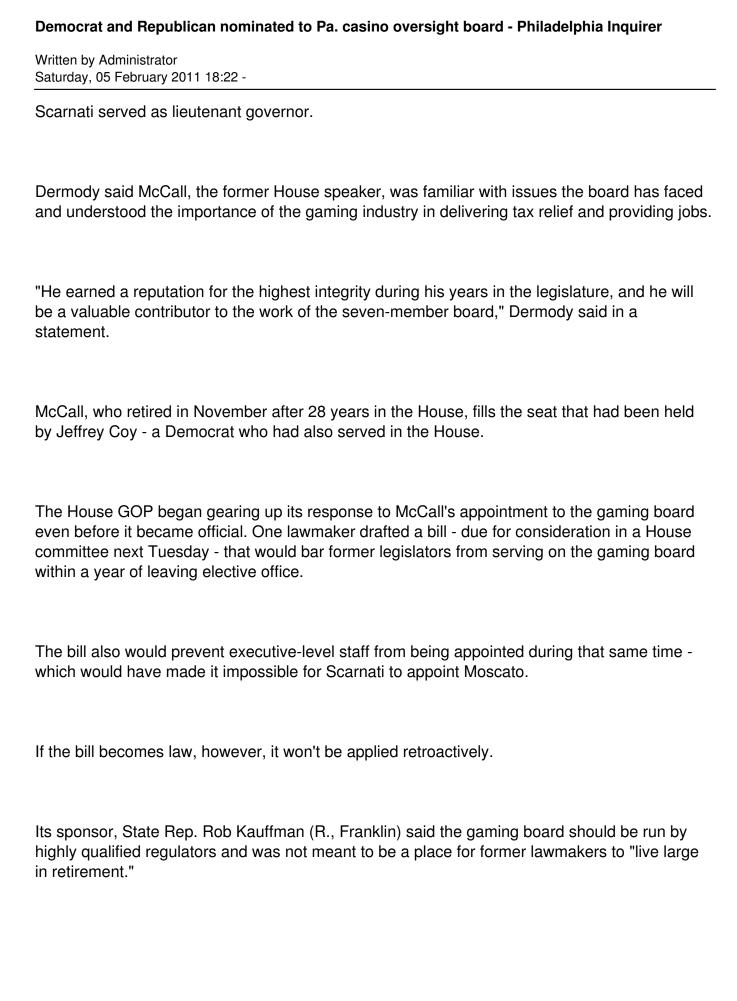
Meanwhile, Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R., Jefferson) was naming his former top aide, Tony Moscato, to the board.

Each of the four legislative caucus leaders make one appointment to the seven-member board. The governor selects the remaining three. The pay is good: board members receive an annual salary of \$145,000.

The board, formed under the 2004 law legalizing casino gambling, is charged with awarding casino licenses and ensuring that operators follow state laws and regulations.

Scarnati and Dermody defended their choices on Friday.

"Tony [Moscato] has a unique perspective because he was an elected official," said Drew Crompton, Scarnati's chief of staff. Moscato served for 16 years as a Cameron County commissioner before becoming special assistant to Scarnati for the last two years, when



Democrat and Republican nominated to Pa. casino oversight board - Philadelphia Inquirer

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