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Those celebrating the momentous changes

currently taking place in New Jersey's gambling laws may want to stop and spare a thought for the 115 casino inspectors who received their pink slips this week. The inspectors were laid off within hours of Governor Chris Christie signing the legislation into law as part of a plan to cut spending costs by millions of dollars at Atlantic City casinos.

For thirty years, NJ gambling laws have dictated that inspectors be a constant presence on the casino floors of the 11 gambling resorts in Atlantic City. Patrons enjoyed this 24/7 presence as it meant that they always had someone to complain to immediately if something went wrong. This has all changed now, as many of the functions of the state's Casino Commission are transferred to the Division of Gaming Enforcement, thereby eliminating the need for 115 out of the 140 casino inspectors employed by the state. The Division has its own team of inspectors who will take over some of the duties.

"We have had discussions with the Division of Gaming Enforcement regarding the implementation of this new statute," said Dan Heneghan, speaking for the casino commission. "As additional functions are transferred, we will reassess our staffing requirements."

From now on, gamblers who want to lodge a complaint about a certain casino can either do so over the phone to a line in Trenton, or they can fill out a form available at the casino itself.

The Governor said that the new gambling laws bring New Jersey into line with regulations typically found in other states.

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