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COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - Ohio's GOP-led Senate will decide before lame duck Gov. Ted Strickland leaves office whether to approve his nominees to regulate the state's new casino industry.

State Sen. Tom Niehaus (NEE'-hows) wouldn't say Thursday how lawmakers will vote on Strickland's choices, which include

four Democrats and three Republicans.

Niehaus, the Senate's No. 2 Republican, says the chamber will hold hearings on the selections as it would on any nominees.

The fate of Strickland's choices are up in the air following the Democrat's defeat in the polls by Republican John Kasich.

Casinos approved by voters last year are planned in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Toledo.

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