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The state of Ohio had been moving quickly towards ending their years of casino gambling prohibition under Governor Ted Strickland. On Strickland's watch, residents approved four new casinos for the state, and a law also was created to allow slots at state race tracks.

That advancement was moving swiftly, but now there is going to be a change in

leadership. Governor-elect John Kasich will take over in the new year, and he has said that he wants to review all of the details of the slots plan before moving forward with any gambling expansion.

It was expected that Kasich, a Republican, would immediately do away with the slot idea. The governor-elect, however, has kept an open mind, and although he does not gamble himself, he understands the positives that could come along with the expansion.

First and foremost, according to supporters of the slots, the race tracks would benefit. The racing industry in the US has been hit hard by the economy, and slots have been a saving grace for many states. The tracks employ thousands of Ohio residents, and they maintain that the majority of those employees would keep their jobs if slots were added.

Whether or not Kasich moves forward with the slots plan, casino gambling will be coming to Ohio. Last year, voters approved a ballot initiative that will bring casinos to Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo. The cities in those areas will be the main beneficiaries of the gambling revenue that comes from the casinos.

The state budget would stand to make millions of dollars in additional revenue if the slots were approved. The Lottery Commission, in the meantime, has put on hold all preparations for the slots, including setting up rules and regulations that the tracks operating the slots would have to follow.

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