

Pa. gaming board asked to delay vote on casino - Bloomberg

Written by Administrator
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HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A senior state House Republican lawmaker on Wednesday asked the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to delay a vote to decide a winner in the four-way race for the state's last miniature "resort" casino license.

Rep. Curt Schroder, who is expected to become

chairman of the House Gaming Oversight Committee in January, said the license award should not come to a vote until after two new legislative appointees replace board members whose terms are about to expire.

"Waiting an additional month or two until new members are appointed and educated on each applicant will ensure confidence that the board is making the best decision," Schroder, R-Chester, wrote. "Further, it will ensure that the board members who have to implement the decision are the ones who made it."

No prospective appointees have been named.

The board has scheduled a vote at its Jan. 6 meeting. Applicants vying for the license are Fernwood Hotel & Resort in the Pocono Mountains, Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort in southwestern Pennsylvania and hotel and conference centers in the Gettysburg and Harrisburg areas.

Asked last week whether the board should delay a vote until after Gov.-elect Tom Corbett takes office on Jan. 18, one top state senator said no.

Sen. Jane Earll, the Erie County Republican who chairs the Senate committee that oversees state gambling policy, said a delay would waste long hours already spent by gaming board officials on vetting the four applicants.

The license would allow the winner to operate 600 slot machines and 50 table games.

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A gaming board spokesman said Wednesday night that he was unaware of the letter and could not comment on it. The six-year-old agency is responsible for licensing and regulating the state's casino industry.

Two board members — House Democratic appointee Jeffrey Coy and Senate Republican appointee Kenneth McCabe — have both served three two-year terms, the maximum allowed in the 2004 law that created the agency and legalized slot machines.

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