

A downtown Kansas City, Kan. casino is one step closer to replacing its bingo games with full-fledged slot machines.

On Friday, Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson announced that he and the Wyandotte Nation reached an agreement to upgrade the casino gaming class. However, the agreement must be approved by the Kansas Legislature before it takes effect.

The agreement would upgrade

the tribal-owned 7th Street Casino from Class II to Class III gaming. It would allow the casino to offer typical slot machines. However, the agreement does not allow table games.

"The state has found a responsible approach to maintaining the integrity of gaming in Kansas as the Wyandotte Nation upgrades their casino," Parkinson said.

The Oklahoma-based Wyandotte Nation opened the casino in 2008 after more than a decade of legal delays. Its owners have spent much of the time since working to get the gaming class upgraded.

"We have developed a strong working relationship with the Wyandotte Nation since the opening of the 7th Street Casino," said Joe Reardon, mayor of the Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kan. Unified Government. "The casino has created jobs and has helped reinvigorate our downtown," he said.

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