

# The Connecticut General Assembly



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## Legislation to Create Gaming Commission Slated for Public Hearing

HARTFORD — A piece of legislation to establish a Connecticut Gaming Commission and create a competitive bidding process for a resort-casino is slated for public hearing at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on Tuesday, February 26 at 10 a.m.

**State Representative Jack Hennessy, D- Bridgeport**, co-introduced [the bill](#) along with 15 other lawmakers as a way to spark economic development in Connecticut.

“Connecticut is in tough financial shape, and one of the best ways to attain fiscal stability is through the development of a statewide gaming commission and initiating a competitive bidding process for a resort-casino,” said **Rep. Hennessy**. “This bill would help generate millions in revenues, drawing out-of-state travelers to Bridgeport who will stay at our hotels, visit our local businesses and eat at our restaurants. And you can’t forget to mention how many jobs it would create.”

For several decades, the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes have operated casinos in the state, and in 2017 sought the legislature’s authorization to construct a casino in East Windsor. With this exclusive right to operate casinos, the tribes share 25 percent of their slot machine and table games revenues with the state.

With the passage of this [legislation](#) in 2017, this opened up discussions to allow for the construction of another off-reservation in casino, operated by MGM Resorts International, the Las Vegas-based gaming operator.

During the 2018 session, **Rep. Hennessy** co-sponsored [legislation](#) introduced by the Public Safety and Security Committee that would allow the state to establish a Gaming Commission and open a competitive bid process for a resort-casino. According to reports, MGM is committed to constructing a \$675 million casino and entertainment facility, which was expected to bring 2,000 jobs to the state.

While the proposal passed in the House, it did not move through the Senate.

Members of the public and interested stakeholders can testify before the Public Safety and Security Committee, or may submit testimony online by emailing [pstestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:pstestimony@cga.ct.gov).

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