



John Roberts

Massachusetts

Massachusetts is in no apparent hurry to draft legislation related to sports betting. Their legislative session ended July 30, so no action will be taken until the 2019 session, if then. Currently there are no tribal casinos in the state. The Mashpee Wampanoag tribe hoped to open a casino on land in Taunton but in 2016 a federal court decision determined the Department of Interior had incorrectly taken land into trust for the tribe and construction of their casino, which was in a very preliminary state, ground to a halt. On July 24, 2018, the Department of Interior took no position during a congressional hearing reviewing legislation related

to the Mashpee tribe. A bill has been introduced by U.S. Representative William Keating, D-Mass in the House with an identical bill under consideration by the Senate, that would affirm the decision in 2015 by Interior to take 321 acres of land into trust for the tribe. If passed, the bill would end the ongoing legal challenge that has prevented the tribe from building a casino and threatens their status as a federally recognized tribe.

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) plans a small gaming facility in Aquinnah, on Martha's Vineyard. ✨

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