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Originally Published: January 12, 2014 8:00 AM Modified: January 15, 2014 12:54 AM

Gaming board, lawmaker compromise on charity poker

By [Sherri Welch](#)

The **Michigan Gaming Control Board** said it has reached a compromise with a Republican lawmaker on rules changes for charity poker games.

The board said it has relaxed proposed changes that would have tightened regulations for charity poker games.

In exchange, Rep. Jeff Farrington, R-Utica, has agreed not to seek further legislative action on HB 4960, which he introduced in September to expand charitable gaming in Michigan, according to the Gaming Control Board.

That bill is opposed by Gov. Rick Snyder's administration, the board and Farrington said in a joint news release.

Under the terms of the compromise, the revised rules — which are subject to action by the legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules — include:

- Allowing up to four nights of poker each week per approved location, rather than the 30 or 120 nights of charity poker per location as proposed by the Gaming Control Board.
- Requiring that three representatives from the charitable beneficiary be on hand for the

poker games from which it is benefiting, rather than five.

- Expanding the locations where millionaire parties can take place from fewer than 40 to any location approved by the Gaming Control Board, including bars, churches, schools, fraternal halls and community centers.

As part of the compromise, the Gaming Control Board said it immediately lifted the moratorium issued by the **Michigan Lottery Bureau** in 2011 on licensing new gaming suppliers to provide dealers, tables and equipment to assist the charities in games. Charities will have the choice of running the games themselves or hiring a licensed supplier to help them.

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