

## **The Michigan Legislature**

The State Legislature enacts the laws of Michigan; levies taxes and appropriates funds from money collected for the support of public institutions and the administration of the affairs of state government; proposes amendments to the state constitution, which must be approved by a majority vote of the electors; and considers legislation proposed by initiatory petitions. The Legislature also provides oversight of the executive branch of government through the administrative rules and audit processes, committees, and the budget process; advises and consents, through the Senate, on gubernatorial appointments; and considers proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States. The majority of the Legislature's work, however, entails lawmaking.

During a typical two-year session, the Legislature will introduce about 4,400 bills: 600 to 800 of these will become law. Legislators and legislative committees spend many hours of work on each bill before the bill is sent to the floor of either house for consideration.

Michigan Senate Standing Gaming & Casino Oversight Committee - The Senate created a standing Gaming and Casino Oversight Committee to review casino and gaming legislation in early 1997. The Committee traveled around the state in the beginning of 1997 to hear Michigan residents' comments about casino gaming. The Committee also heard from industry leaders, state officials, gaming officials from states with legalized Class III gaming, and casino operators and suppliers. The Committee worked to amend Proposal E and obtain the necessary votes in both chambers.

Michigan House Oversight & Ethics Committee - The Michigan House of Representatives assigns a majority of the casino and gaming related bills, resolutions, and discussions to the House Oversight and Ethics Committee. This standing committee has created several subcommittees to handle specific gaming legislation.

Note - These committees were later renamed the Senate and House Gaming & Casino Oversight Committees.