

July 6, 2001

The Honorable Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: House Bill No. 1905 by Representative Landrieu
Gambling: Prohibits elected officials from doing business with the owner or operator of a facility which is subject to an Indian gaming compact

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 1905 would prohibit an elected public official from engaging in business activity with the owner or operator of a facility which is subject to an Indian gaming compact except as a patron or as a performing professional musician. The bill would be effective August 15. The bill does not apply to written contracts executed before January 1, 2001. However, it does apply to written contracts executed after January 1. Furthermore, it applies to all existing oral contracts even though such contracts are as legally binding and convey the same rights as written contracts. While the bill has merit, it should have been effective as to contracts, oral or written, entered into after its effective date to avoid the possibility of exposing the state to damages incurred by an adversely affected party.

For this reason, I am vetoing House Bill No. 1905 and returning it to the House of Representatives. However, in order to address the issue timely, I will place this matter before the legislature at the next special session.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

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