



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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**MENARD FILES GAMING LEGISLATION**

*DESTINATION RESORTS, RACETRACK SLOTS INCLUDED*

BOSTON – Senator Joan Menard (D-Fall River) today re-filed legislation to legalize casino gaming in the Commonwealth. Menard’s bill, co-sponsored by several colleagues, licenses two full scale resort casinos and allows the state’s racetracks to operate slot machines.

Undeterred by the defeat of Governor Patrick’s casino bill in the House of Representatives last year, Senator Menard said “the fact remains, many of our residents enjoy gaming and continue to head out of state to do so.”

According to the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Massachusetts residents annually spend hundreds of millions of dollars at the two casinos in Connecticut. Recent polls conducted in 2008 show that support for casino gaming in the Commonwealth remains strong.

Specifically, Menard’s bill calls for two resort casinos, one on Bristol County and one in Hampden County, and for the authorization of slot machines at the state’s four racetracks. The casinos would be regulated by the newly created Massachusetts Gaming Commission, and the slot operations at the tracks would be overseen by an expanded Lottery Commission.

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