

Capitol e-Report - November Special Session on Gaming Compact Unlikely

September 28, 2009

A November special session on a Seminole Indian gambling proposal is beginning to appear unlikely. A later special session would be possible, but there seems to be increasing chances the Seminole “gaming” proposal won’t get legislative consideration until the 2010 regular session next March.

Media reports Tuesday noted that House leaders have joined Senate President Jeff Atwater in raising questions and wanting to move slowly before approving the agreement to expand gaming negotiated by Governor Charlie Crist with the Seminole Indians.

Rep. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, directing House consideration of the proposal for Speaker Larry Cretul, sent a letter to House gaming committee Tuesday saying the panel would likely not meet until November and he believes there are problems with the plan.

“Our initial review has confirmed the proposed compact substantially deviates from the direction authorized by the Legislature,” he wrote.

Senate President Atwater has submitted a list of questions on the proposal to Governor Crist and it does not appear likely the Senate will act until he gets them.

Crist originally expressed support for a special session the week of October 5 when the House and Senate resume interim committee meetings in preparation for the 2010 regular session. That won’t happen now. There was speculation the special session could be held during early November interim committee meetings.

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