

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
AND PUBLIC FINANCE

SUBJECT: Issues Before the Committee with Respect to Article  
XXI (Gambling)

This memorandum is aimed at helping the Chair and the members of the Committee on Legislative Branch and Public Finance with an overview of the issues before the Committee with respect to Article XXI (Gambling). Although the subject is very controversial and important to the future of the CNMI, the issues before the Committee can be simply stated.

1. Legislative Authority: Several delegates have proposed that the Legislature be denied the power to authorize casino gambling and that this authority be limited to the three Senatorial districts. This can be done by eliminating the phrase "as provided by law" from the article.

2. Senatorial District Authority: If the authority to permit casino gambling is left only to the Senatorial districts, then the delegates have to decide how this authority is to be exercised. Many of the proposals would require that this be done by popular initiative; some suggest that the normal 2/3 supra-majority should apply, whereas others suggest a 3/4 requirement.

3. Moratorium: There are some proposals that would impose a moratorium on casino gambling for ten years in all Senatorial Districts except the Second Senatorial District.

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