



THE WINDSOR STAR

What are you looking for this mo

Search

☁ 9°C

June 1, 2015

[News](#) • [City](#) • [County](#) • [Opinion](#) • [Sports](#) • [Arts](#) • [Life](#) • [Business](#) • [Health](#) • [Careers](#) • [Homes](#) • [Driving](#) • [Classifieds](#) • [Weather](#) •

[Obituaries](#) • [Subscribe](#)

BUSINESS

BUSINESS

Sports betting bill facing death if Senate refuses to stage vote before election



Caesars Windsor is pictured, Monday, March 25th, 2013. (DAX MELMER/The Windsor Star)

Comments

Email

Like { 47

Tweet { 11

+1 { 0

**Dave Battagello**

May 29, 2015 - 9:45 PM EDT

Last Updated: May 29, 2015 - 11:08 PM EDT

The clock is ticking in Ottawa for the Senate to act on making single-event sports betting legal in Canada.

Proposed legislation passed by the House of Commons three years ago has remained untouched for final approval by the Senate.

Parliament is poised to break for the summer in the next few weeks. If a vote is not staged before the next federal election — expected to occur early this fall — then Bill C-290 will die and the political process to make it sports betting legal will have to start from scratch.

“We are still hopeful it will get a vote,” said Jhoan Baluyot, spokesperson for Caesars Windsor. “We will be disappointed if it’s not acted upon because it will be a missed opportunity.”

“We do have a favourable exchange rate and great shows, but this would give us something different from the Detroit casinos that would help draw even more customers.”

Caesars Windsor CEO Kevin Laforet, chairman of the Canadian Gaming Association, continues to lobby Ottawa to get single-event sports betting approved.

“They are pushing hard for this to go forward,” Baluyot said of Laforet and the association. “They are baffled the bill has not gone through because it does have the support of the chambers and labour.”

Despite the lobbying, Conservative Senator Bob Runciman, who chairs the committee considering it, told Bloomberg News this week his Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee is “unlikely” to deal with it before the fall election.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is among those striving to get the sports betting legislation voted on in the Senate.

National chamber CEO Perrin Beatty recently issued a letter to Senate leaders to act on Bill C-290.

Beatty indicated \$14 billion per year would be shifted from offshore



Connect With Us

FP News

5 things you should know before you start your workday



China tries to revive consumer spending; woman tries to recycle Apple 1 computer:

Here's your cheat sheet for today's Financial Post

How sweatpants went from ‘a sign of defeat’ to the new designer fashion trend



Once considered to be the unfashionable clothing staple of people who spend their

weekends on the couch with a bag of Cheetos, sweatpants have taken a decidedly stylish turn

FP Personal Finance

and illegal wagers on sports to provincial regulation and taxation if single-event sports betting was legalized in Canada.

“With only weeks left in Parliament, the chambers again ask the Senate to pass Bill C-290,” he wrote.

Local chamber president Matt Marchand indicated business and labour groups jointly are undertaking “one last push” to get the sports bill approved before the summer break.

“It’s disappointing they have not acted given how this has been sitting on the Senate floor for three years,” he said.

Even if the bill dies without a vote, Marchand believes efforts will not slow down to get single-event sports betting in place.

“We are not going anywhere,” he said. “The chamber will be hosting (federal election) debates and asking local candidates to express their views and carry the message to Parliament.”

MP Brian Masse (NDP—Windsor West) has taken over the lead in the House of Commons to get the bill passed.

“This has to happen in the next few weeks or it’s gone,” he said.

There is a possibility Runciman’s Senate committee or the House could reconvene in the summer to stage a vote and pass the sports betting legislation, but Masse believes the chances of that are minuscule.

“I’m told there is no political will to do that,” Masse said. “We are calling for at least a vote on this. We believe enough support is there. This is a classic example of why people are fed up with the Senate.”

The fact the bill has sat untouched since being passed by the House is “very disappointing,” he said.

“This is already happening in the back streets and basements with a click on the Internet,” Masse said. “The profits are going to organized crime where they could be going to benefit health and education.”

There also stands to be huge competition troubles for Ontario’s casinos if border states such as Michigan move faster to legalize single-event sport betting, he said.

If you plan to file an objection to your Notice of Assessment, pay attention to the deadline



If you miss the deadline, you can still apply within one year of the deadline for an extension

of time to object, but you need some pretty good reasons

They used to play golf, now senior citizens are staging heists and robbing banks



Loneliness and poverty are two factors blamed for rising crime rates among the elderly

around the world, adding a worrisome new dimension to the problem of aging populations

Last resort: What you can do if you can't pay your debts



'It is important for the public to understand that if they are in financial difficulty, they are not alone'

FP Investing

North American markets pull back sharply on disappointing GDP reports



North American stock markets closed deeply in the red in a broad-based decline that