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Massachusetts Casinos

By Adel Awwad

You can always tell when people are truly from the state of Massachusetts, as they speak with an unforgettable accent. Boasting Boston as the state capital, Massachusetts is small in size, but large in population, entertainment and just about anything else. There are 6,349,097 people living in Massachusetts, which means there must be a lot to keep busy in this state to keep this many people living in it.

Well, of the many entertainment options, Massachusetts casinos slide right in under the radar. There are a smattering of Massachusetts casinos located throughout the state. Many of these Massachusetts casinos focus on horse racing, though most of them do boast slot machines as well.

One of the more popular, Vegas-style casinos is the Horizon's Edge Casino Cruises, located in Lynn, Massachusetts. This Massachusetts casino boasts more than 170 slot machines, bunches of table games (including poker, roulette and blackjack) as well as a variety of entertainment. All style and flash, this Massachusetts casino is sure to win over those who are Vegas-diehards.

There are more laid-back options in selections such as Atlantic Casino Cruises, located in the Massachusetts fishing village of Gloucester, Plainridge Racecourse in Plainville and Suffolk Downs in Boston. These casinos feature live racing action and video lottery machines. They are more laid-back than the Vegas style Horizon's Edge and are the kind of Massachusetts casinos that better reflect the calm culture of this state. There are Massachusetts casinos that are geared towards a more local crowd and the games and services are reflected accordingly.

Not to be discounted, there are also several greyhound parks with the Massachusetts casino realm. The Wonderland Greyhound Park in Revere and the Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Park in Raynham, both feature heart-pound dog-racing action that is both fun and can be very lucrative, particularly for seasoned gamblers. These dog-racing parks also feature musical entertainment, dining options, accommodations and more, to make for an all-encompassing Massachusetts casino experience.

While the state of Massachusetts is not necessarily known for its casino action: it has plenty of it and with the selection, Massachusetts casinos boast variety. From dog-racing to slot machines to table

games, Massachusetts casinos dot the state and feature a variety of services geared towards gamblers of all levels and types. When you enter a Massachusetts casino, amid all of the games, racing, entertainment, food, fun and more, there is truly something to be found for everyone.

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Online Gambling And Legislation

By Adel Awwad

With more than a trillion dollars changing hands around the world on online casinos alone, sooner rather than later legislation will step in to exercise some form of control in the casino industry. Those measures to control casinos and gambling during the early years worked as the casino had a physical location. Today however casinos have moved online with no real physical location. The question arises how legal are these online casinos?

Gambling legislation has not changed much since Congress passed the Wire Act in 1961. The Wire Act states that "Whoever being engaged in the business of betting or wagering knowingly uses a wire communication facility for the transmission in interstate or foreign commerce of bets or wagers or information assisting in the placing of bets or wagers on any sporting event or contest, or for the transmission of a wire communication which entitles the recipient to receive money or credit as a result of bets or wagers, or for information assisting in the placing of bets or wagers, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both." This however only covered sports betting and not casinos. There was also no Internet or Internet casinos during that time.

During 1998 both MasterCard and Visa sued Cynthia Haines for money she lost while gambling on an online casino. She had lost more than US\$70,000 to an online casino and could not settle her account with the plaintiffs. She filed a counterclaim well within the state laws of California which prohibited credit card loans for gambling be it online casinos or bricks and mortar casinos. That case was settled out of court. Many states have now enacted their own legislation however casinos have moved their gambling operations off shore to casino friendly countries.

Gambling has increased drastically with the advent of the Internet and online casinos. With huge profits and vested interest in casinos there are also very strong lobbyists in government to keep gambling unimpeded. The Internet Gambling Prohibition Act which was defeated in 2000 shows how much vested interest there is in the casino and gaming industry. Cyberspace is the last frontier when it comes to laws governing casinos. Only time will tell how legislation will catch-up with online casinos

and gambling websites.

Adel Awwad is the webmaster of Online Casinos – Copyright © 2005

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