

The state of Vermont has been left out in the cold when it comes to casino expansion in the Northeast. While other states have started to expand their gaming industries at a rapid pace, Vermont has held its ground with no casinos.

If Republican Ron Hubert and his allies get their way, Vermont will soon become a player in the gaming industry.

Hubert has proposed legislation that would legalize one casino in Vermont, a stepping stone to perhaps further expansion down the road.

"A lot of people in the state of Vermont are taking money outside the state to casinos," said Hubert. "I thought there was certainly no harm in getting the conversation started." getting the conversation started and getting the bill passed are two separate things.

The Democratic leadership in Vermont wants no part of passing a bill that would legalize casino gambling. House Speaker Shap Smith has already stated his opposition to bringing a casino to the state. Other lawmakers are equally opposed to any type of gambling expansion.

Vermont has a state lottery, but it took almost a decade to legalize that form of betting. Unlike in other states, Vermont has held steady on their anti-casino stance for the past couple of years. With millions of dollars leaving the state, Hubert believes it is time to update their outdated gaming laws.

The argument against casinos is one that can be seen in almost any state in the country. Anti-gaming conservatives feel that gambling takes away from the morals of residents in a particular area. Hubert points out, however, that Vermont residents are already gambling at casinos, they are just doing so in other states.

January 30, 2011

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Written by Administrator

Sunday, 30 January 2011 01:10 -

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