



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

May 19, 2004

TO: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 998 and Senate Bill 569: Approval of Indian Gaming Compacts

Assembly Bill 998 and Senate Bill 569, relating to the approval of Indian gaming compacts, were introduced on May 18, 2004, and were referred to the Joint Committee on Finance.

### **CURRENT LAW**

Under current law, the Governor may, on behalf of the state, enter into compacts with Wisconsin Indian tribes that have been negotiated under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

### **SUMMARY OF BILLS**

Assembly Bill 998 and Senate Bill 569 provide that before entering into, amending, extending, or renewing a gaming compact, the Governor would be required to submit the proposed compact to the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization (JCLO). The bills also provide that the Governor could not enter into, amend, extend, or renew a compact unless JCLO and the Legislature approve the proposed compact. If JCLO approves a proposed compact, the bills would require the Committee to introduce the compact as a bill (or as companion bills) to be put on the legislative calendar. Upon introduction of such legislation, JCLO would be required to inform the Legislature that the Committee approves the bill and recommends passage of the bill without change.

A compact approval bill introduced under this procedure would not be subject to either of the following statutory requirements: (1) that any bill appropriating money, providing for revenue,

or relating to taxation be referred to the Joint Committee on Finance before being passed; or (2) that certain bills containing an appropriation, or increasing the cost of state government, or decreasing state revenues not be passed before passage of the biennial budget bill unless the legislation has an emergency clause attached.

If JCLO does not approve the proposed compact without change or if the Legislature does not adopt the compact bill without change, AB 998 and SB 569 stipulate that the proposed compact would be returned to the Governor for renegotiation.

Finally, the bills would enumerate deliberations by JCLO in a meeting on an Indian gaming compact submitted by the Governor as an exemption to the state's open meetings law requirements. By majority vote, JCLO could adopt a motion to convene in closed session to deliberate the matter.

Prepared by: Art Zimmerman