

Gaming Regulation Update No. 7

GovRisk has been following the creation of new gaming laws and regulations, as well as other significant developments, since the beginning of July. We will continue to highlight these developments through these updates and events like our [Caribbean](#) and [Dutch Caribbean](#) Gaming Regulation Forums which take place in November.

Asia Pacific

[Vietnam's Ministry of Finance has reportedly completed a draft decree](#) that would allow Vietnamese nationals to gamble in casinos at home and reduce regulatory barriers for casino operators in a bid to attract foreign investors.

[If Japan legalises casino gambling the approval of casino licences should be done through a 2-step process](#) that would involve the Japanese central government and "municipal bodies". This process will slow the approval of casino bids in Japan but also allow the nation to more adequately plan and distribute resources to future gaming projects.

Caribbean

[Bahamas MP Leslie Miller has raised vociferous objections over elements of new gaming bill](#) that was introduced that "favours foreigners over Bahamians". Miller also says, "[it will be very contentious and I will speak out hard if Bahamians are disadvantaged in favour of foreigners](#)". With widespread interest in the Bahamas as a model for other jurisdictions, the outcome of this debate in the Bahamas could impact future gaming bills throughout the Caribbean.

Americas

[A number of significant details have emerged about Mexico's new gaming act](#) after an interview with Fernando Zárate Salgado, President of the Commission of Gaming in the Chamber of Deputies. This includes a number of wide sweeping changes which would establish a new advisory council, change the minimum entry age and establish a raft of new licensing measures. The Mexican government looks to make their regulatory system more rigorous and also the new act would look to promote fair gaming and tourism in Mexico.

In spite of the fact that there is currently no poker bill in the California state legislature, [the Native American tribe believes it may be able to offer online poker without any changes to the law](#) and poker site [PrivateTable will be launched for real-money online poker later this month](#). The Santa Ysabel Gaming Commission says that they have the right to offer Class II gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, though the above article suggests the tribe is "walking a thin legal line".

Europe

[The Gibraltar Betting and Gaming Association, as promised, filed a legal challenge to the UK Gambling Act 2014](#), calling it "illegitimate, disproportionate, discriminatory and irrational". The new law comes into effect in October and the GBGA fears a loss of customers (and a consequent catastrophic loss of revenues) if it refuses to participate in the new regime.

[Switzerland is the latest country in Europe making its way towards proper online gaming regulation](#). Switzerland has had legal gambling since 1993 with limited-stakes casino gambling only and the Swiss government officials have noted that "[it would be convenient to give gambling operators the opportunity to offer their games on the internet](#)".

Thank you

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