WASHINGTON STATE
GAMBLING
COMMISSION

Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee
Legislative Hearing – Proposed Compact Amendment

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Patty Kinswa-Gaiser, Chair, Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Tina Griffin, Director, Gambling Commission

Julie Lies, Tribal Liaison, Gambling Commission

Commissioners



Chair Alicia Levy



Vice Chair Julia Patterson



Bud Sizemore



Sarah Lawson



Anders Ibsen

Ex Officio Members



Senator
Steve Conway
29th District



Senator
Jeff Holy
6th District



Representative
Shelley Kloba
1st District



Representative
Eric Robertson
31st District

“Class III gaming activities shall be lawful on Indian lands only if such activities are located in a State that permits such gaming and are conducted in conformance with a tribal-state compact…”

1988: Indian Gaming Regulatory Act

Negotiation Topics

- Casino-style gaming activities
- Criminal and civil jurisdiction
- Fees for state regulation
- Remedies for breach of contract
- Standards of operation



1988: Indian Gaming Regulatory Act

“The purpose of this chapter is…

to protect such gaming as a means of generating tribal revenue.”

“The State must

negotiate in good faith

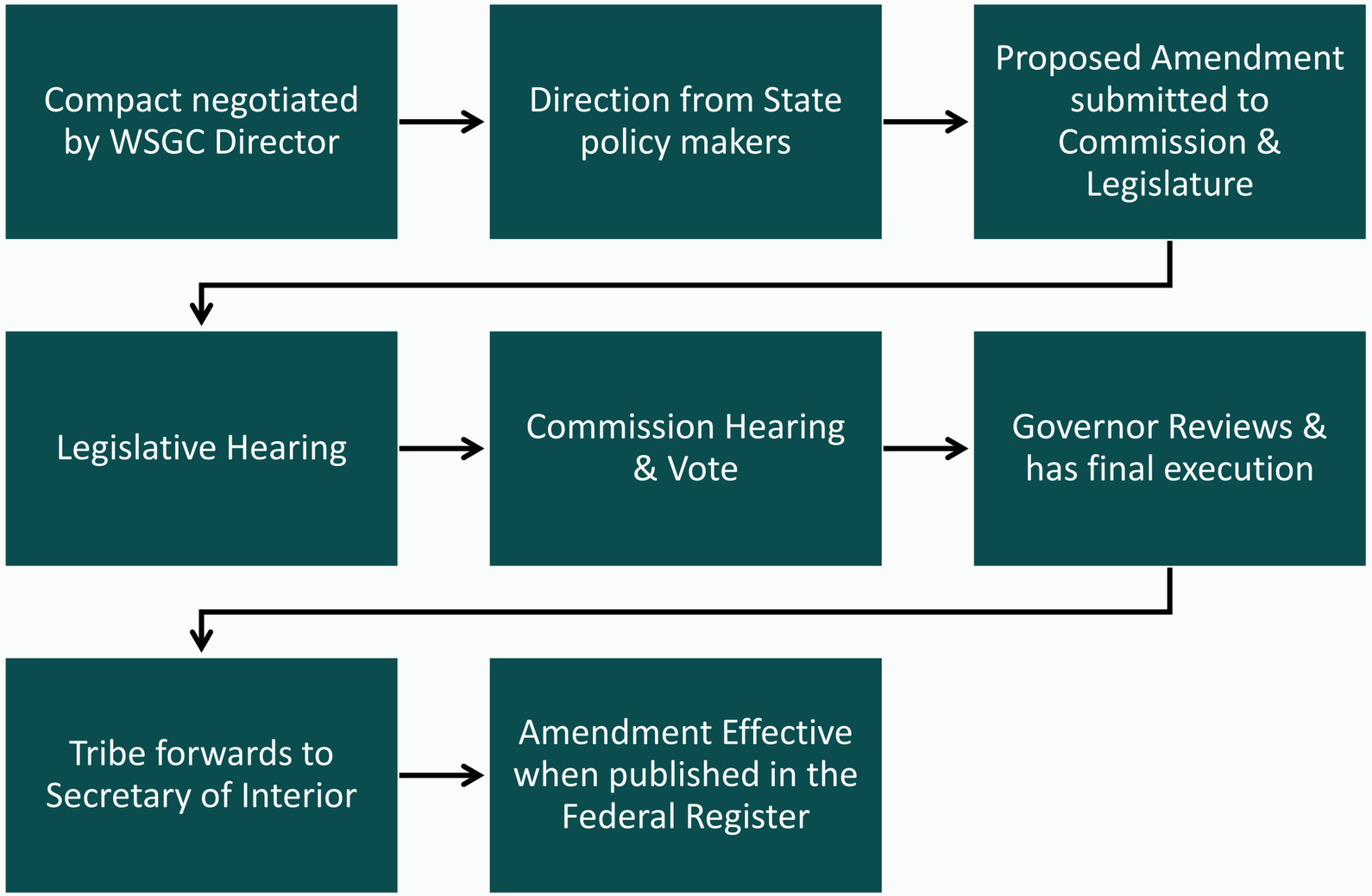
when a compact or amendment is requested by a tribe.”

Public Protection Interests

- No criminal involvement
- Gaming conducted fairly, honestly
- Gaming limited to authorized activities
- Minimize negative impacts on local law enforcement, emergency services



Gaming Compact Amendment Approval Process



THE COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE

Compact Hearing

Patty Kinswa-Gaiser,
Chair of The Cowlitz Indian

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe History

Facts

- The Cowlitz Indian Tribe once encompassed 3,000 sq. miles of Southwest Washington
- The Cowlitz Tribe has almost 5000 members and relies on gaming revenues and grants to provide services

Timeline

- 1854 – The federal government proposed a reservation for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe about six miles east of the Tribe's casino site
- 1855 – In treaty negotiations, the United States tried to persuade the Tribe to relocate to the Olympic Peninsula. The Tribe refused to leave
- 1863 – The Tribe’s land was opened to non-Indian settlement by Executive Order
- 2000 – The Tribe reestablished its federal recognition
- June 16, 2014 – Governor Inslee signed the Cowlitz Tribe’s gaming compact
- 2015 – The Tribe's application to establish a Reservation and obtain trust lands in Clark County was approved
- April 24, 2017 – The Tribe’s casino, ilani, opened its door to the public
- April 24, 2023 – The Tribe added a hotel to the casino property

Programs & Services

- **Health** Services programs providing medical, mental health and substance abuse services to Native Americans in Western Washington at three sites (Vancouver, Longview and Tukwila).
- **Education** Department provides tuition assistance available to tribal members.
- **Youth** Services programs including camps, gatherings and classes on tribal history and culture.
- **Housing** Department assistance for low-income Tribal members through programs including services for renters and homeowners and Elder's apartments.
- **Natural Resources** programs work with Tribal and non-Tribal governments to conserve and restore culturally-relevant species and landscapes integral to the Cowlitz People.
- **Transportation** Department provides trips to medical appointments, shopping and social gatherings for the disabled, low income, or those without transportation within our service area.
- **Cultural Resources** Department maintains and restores the Tribe's culture, language, and history. Major activities include the Canoe journey, the annual Pow-wow, and the Tribal Drum Group.
- **Elders** Program assists tribal elders in maintaining quality of life, including meals, transportation, housing assistance and health services.

Community Impact

- The Cowlitz Indian Tribe contributed millions to our local community:
  - $48,000,000 in total compact and ordinance fees since 2017
  - $40,000,000 spent on upgrading the I-5 interchange
  - $15,000,000 spent on a Water Treatment facility for the reservation
  - $4,500,000 spent on a sewer expansion for the City of La Center

- In addition to millions donated through the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's various funds, since its inception, ilani has directly contributed more than $3,200,000 to charitable causes in the region.

New Junior Ballroom and Meeting Rooms

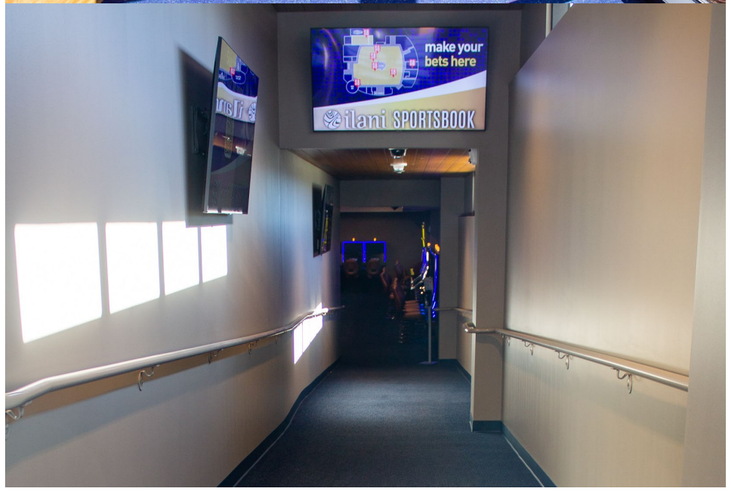




New Separated Smoking Area







Summary of Compact Changes

Smoking Cessation and Prevention

- Pro-rated contribution for smoke-free portions of the Gaming Facility
- Requires secondhand smoke barriers consistent with industry-accepted control strategies that prevent exposure
- Requires a calculation method easy to verify

Next Steps

Today

- Hold required hearing
- Answer questions

Commission Meeting

April 25, 2024

- Vote to forward to Governor
- Vote to return for further negotiations