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Iden seeks gaming reforms to allow Michigan charities more fundraising options

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State Rep. Brandt Iden (R-Oshtemo) is continuing a legislative push for revisions to the Michigan gaming industry this week, attempting to allow charities to raise funds through poker and casino-style gaming.

Known as charitable gaming, the idea was enshrined in legislation that passed the House Regulatory Reform Committee, of which Iden is chair, but has yet to be voted on by the full House. Iden said the legislation would allow charities to raise more money while requiring reasonable limits on their hours of operation and the amounts at stake.

“These are important reforms for local charities,” Iden said. “Adopting this legislation will help Kalamazoo County charities raise more money and do more good throughout our community and state. Charities will be able to donate more money to food banks, veterans’ groups, schools and many other community programs that improve lives.”



Brandt Iden

While charitable gaming has, according to Thomas Hickson, vice president of public policy and advocacy for the Michigan Catholic Conference, been a significant source of income for charities in the past, Gaming Control Board regulations in the state have since restricted it as an option.

“This legislation introduces common sense reforms to protect the integrity of the games while allowing charities

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