

# What Negative Impacts Can Your Business Expect From a Casino At Suffolk Downs?

*Casino revenue comes at the expense of the local economy. A study on the costs and benefits of casinos found that for every \$1,000 in increased casino revenue, businesses up to 30 miles away lost \$243. Consider:*

## The State Will Be An Active Partner To The Casino

The law that is supported by every one of your elected officials creates an active partnership between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Casino Operators. The State will collect a 25% tax from the casinos versus the 6.25% they currently collect from your business operations. *This gives the State a vested interest in their success over yours.*

To that end, the State has given casino operators an unfair competitive advantage over all other businesses.

### Casino operators have been granted special protections by the State:

- They will remain open 24/7/365 in violation of local and state laws to the contrary.
- They are permitted to serve free alcohol from 8 am to 2 am 24/7/365 in violation of local and state laws to the contrary.
- They have been granted the authority to access individuals' confidential credit history without written consent.
- Casino operator licenses are valid for 15 years and are not subject to review by local governing jurisdictions/municipalities.

## What Happens To Small Businesses That Are Not Similarly Protected?

What business can compete with the State? By enacting this legislation, the State has decided your business is expendable. They are now depending on dollars that are currently being spent in your business will be spent in the casino.

What's more, casinos are designed to keep gamblers inside, not feed them out into the host community. If a casino visitor can eat for cheap or free at the casino, why would they leave to enjoy a meal somewhere in the neighborhood? And when they're being given free drinks at the casino, can we really expect them to pay for them outside the casino?

**Suffolk Downs is promising to spend \$150 million "locally," but "local" is not defined, nor is this provision explicitly mandated in the law. Suffolk Downs and the casino operator is not bound to this provision. What's more, those monies are simply being reallocated from other spending areas, essentially cannibalizing revenues from existing businesses. In fact, studies have shown that local towns see no change in overall per capita income after the creation of a casino.**

## But don't take our word for it. Listen to casino insiders themselves talking about how casinos impact local businesses:

**Donald Trump, casino owner, "The Jackpot State," *The Miami-Herald*, March 27, 1994:** "People will spend a tremendous amount of money in casinos, money that they would normally spend on buying a refrigerator or a new car. Local businesses will suffer because they lose customer dollars to the casinos."

**Steve Wynn to Bridgeport, Connecticut business leaders:** "There is no reason on earth for any of you to expect for more than a second that just because there are people here, they're going to run into your restaurants and stores just because we build this [casino] here."

**Steve Perskie, NJ Casino Control Commission at Mass. Gaming Commission Forum May 3rd, 2012:** "Let me make you a promise. Your legislation requires that operators put up a \$500m investment. With that kind of money, you can be sure they're going to build an impressive structure with restaurants, bars, nightclubs, shops. Make no mistake: the delicatessen down the street is going to go out of business. The nightclub around the corner is going to go out of business. Nothing the Mass. Casino Commission can do is going to change that."

*We want to be a source of casino information for small businesses in the neighborhood. Please stay in touch.  
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