

Morongo Gaming Agency



The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Chair, California Assembly Public Safety Committee
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 1262

Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer,

June 15, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to present my thoughts and support for SB 1262. I write to you as the Executive Director of the Morongo Gaming Agency and a board member of the Tribal Gaming Protection Network.

I have over two decades of experience working with tribal gaming regulation, gaming equipment, systems, software, and surveillance. In my roles with the Morongo Gaming Agency and the Tribal Gaming Protection Network I have oversight and am familiar with the background screening programs in place throughout California's tribal gaming facilities.

Both Morongo and TGPB share the same goals as the public, our industry partners, and Congress in terms of providing safe places to live and work. This is accomplished by adhering to legislative and statutory requirements for licensing in gaming, which requires sensitive personal information of applicants be protected during licensing, employment, or contract work.

I strongly support S.B. 1262, which allows consumers to start work and be placed in rental housing as quickly as possible. The bill does not create new law, but, rather, it restores the status quo for access to court records in place since 2003.

Throughout the state of California, there are more than 160,000 tribal gaming positions. Morongo and members of the TGPB hire and license staff to run casino operations, hotel and guest services, security and more. While a portion of these licensed positions require a fingerprint-based background check, ALL positions are subject to a background check using personal identifiers such as full name, full date of birth, address, and more.

Background checks must be done in nearly all circumstances before the individual is allowed to begin work. Because employees will have access to guests and guest rooms, we rarely offer conditional employment or licensing.

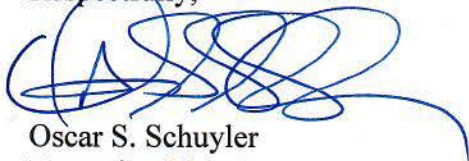
Since the court decision in *All of Us or None vs Hamrick*, which required courts to remove certain information from their records – namely date of birth and driver’s license – the background check process now takes significantly longer. Where prior to the decision most background checks were completed in 2-3 days, now background checks may run 2 weeks or more. This is nearly always the case when the applicant has a more common name which results in added costs to perform searches to ensure proper matching of individuals.

As we have emerged from the pandemic, we are now able to begin hiring and backfilling positions that remained open for the last two years. The delay in background checks negatively impacts hiring. Not only does the delay prevent applicants from beginning work quickly, but in many cases we lose the applicant who moves on to look for work elsewhere while the background check is being completed. In California’s gaming industry, the delay significantly impacts protected class communities.

My role as a regulator is to protect the interest of the Tribe. I take that responsibility very seriously and am committed to safeguard gaming operations for Morongo staff and guests. SB 1262 will restore the ability to complete a timely review of an applicant’s background and solve the complex issues I have just described. This important legislation will allow California consumers to start work sooner and will assist gaming agencies in providing safe places to work, play, and to stay.

I thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion and support on this matter. I am happy to discuss any questions you may have and intend to testify at the Public Safety Committee hearing on June 21st. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions at 951-675-7730 or Oscar_Schuyler@Morongo.com Yaw^ko (Thank you)

Respectfully,



Oscar S. Schuyler
Executive Director,
Morongo Gaming Agency