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Casino Industry Presses for "Table" Games in Pennsylvania

by KYW's Tony Romeo

Amid signs that the Pennsylvania legislature is moving toward approval of the idea, a casino industry consultant made the case on Wednesday for table games, during a state House committee hearing.

Gaming consultant Steve Rittvo (right), chairman of the Innovation Group, told the committee that table games such as blackjack and roulette could add an extra \$165 million a year in tax revenue for Pennsylvania, and he warned that competition could cause the state's casino revenue to decline without them.

But state representative Curt Schroder (R-Chester County) questioned whether Pennsylvania won't ultimately end up in the same place anyway, as nearby states add more forms of gaming in a never-ending effort to gain advantage:

"States are literally tripping all over themselves in a mad scramble game of one-upsmanship."

Rittvo responded:

"We are looking to stabilize you from the competition that potentially could come."

Governor Rendell has said he still thinks it's too soon to add table game to the state's slots parlors, but says if lawmakers send him a bill, he'd consider it ([see previous story](#)).

(File photos)



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