

Dismissal of AG's Creek lawsuit legalizes bingo gaming machines

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By Bob Martin, Publisher

A federal judge in Montgomery has dismissed a lawsuit filed by State Attorney General Luther Strange against the Poarch Creek casinos at Atmore, Wetumpka and Montgomery.

WSFA TV in Montgomery first reported the story earlier this week saying that Strange wanted the tribe's casinos at those locations closed because he believed the machines they were using were illegal slot machines and not bingo machines as the casinos claimed.

In a lengthy opinion of over 50 pages, U. S. District Judge Keith Watkins wrote that the National Indian Gaming Association issued a confirmation that the three casinos were using electronic bingo machines which are legal and can be operated without state approval.

It is interesting that some of these machines are the same electronic bingo devices that were used at VictoryLand and were confiscated by Strange in his raids there in February of last year.

So now we have a federal judge saying the obvious...that all forms of bingo are legal in the areas in Alabama which have pari-mutuel wagering which would include VictoryLand and GreenTrack in Eutaw.

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"This ruling gives us some hope that Mr. Strange will now recognize that our machines at VictoryLand are the same as those at the Poarch Creek casinos. In fact, some of ours were moved directly to those sites," said Milton McGregor, owner of VictoryLand

Watkins' opinion came down in favor the Poarch Creeks because the games they have are electronic bingo and not slots. The language in the state constitutional amendments for both VictoryLand in Macon County and GreeneTrack in Greene County specifically read that the locations may offer "all forms of bingo."