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Roger Williams University School of Law

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# Newsroom

## Goldstein Addresses R.I. Casino Bill

Professor Jared Goldstein argues that a new bill designed to bring casino gambling to Rhode Island passes constitutional, but possibly not political muster.

**Professor Jared Goldstein** is quoted in the Thursday, June 17, 2010, *Providence Journal*, in an article titled, "[Legality of casino bill questioned by Carcieri](#)," by Katherine Gregg, Journal State House Bureau:

PROVIDENCE — In their zeal to bring full-blown casino gambling to Rhode Island and beat out Massachusetts, state lawmakers may have run afoul of state and local law, including the state Constitution, according to the state's lawyer in several casino battles that went to court. [...]

But Roger Williams University law **Prof. Jared Goldstein** said the proposal appears to meet the constitutional tests laid out in the Supreme Court's advisory opinions in that it appears to give the state day-to-day control over the money, which games would be played, who would be given credit and the like. On the face of it, "the bill is constitutional."

But Goldstein, who teaches constitutional law at Roger Williams' law school, stressed that that was a legal analysis, not a policy argument, and he, too, noted that the bill does not lay out the division of revenue.

"I assume that may be a powerful argument for a lot of voters. I mean, we are going to vote on this referendum creating these casinos, and we don't even know how much of the money is going in the pockets of the 'fat cats' who are going to be running it. I can hear the TV ads right

now... It doesn't seem to be a good legal argument, but a perfectly good reason to vote against it."

For full article: [http://www.projo.com/news/content/casino\\_legality\\_06-17-10\\_1AIT87V\\_v14.1...](http://www.projo.com/news/content/casino_legality_06-17-10_1AIT87V_v14.1...)