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OUTLOOK FOR A SPECIAL SESSION ON THE NEW ORLEANS CASINO FILING DEADLINES FOR PAC'S

Now that JCC Holding Company, the owner of Harrah's Casino in New Orleans, has filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, the prospects for the Casino's continued operation are doubtful. A key to its survival is substantial relief from the \$100 million in taxes it must pay the state every year. The Legislature is the only branch of state government that can grant the tax relief and because the Regular Session of the Legislature this year is a "nonfiscal" session, Governor Foster must call a special session to deal with the issue in order for the Legislature to consider it.

The Governor has repeatedly stated that because of the State's financial crisis and the prospects of getting no tax receipts at all from the Casino, he would call a special session if JCC and its supporters convinced him the votes were there in the House and Senate. While it is questionable whether JCC has the needed votes it appears the Governor will call a special session that will convene March 4, 2001. Right now the topics are supposedly limited to the New Orleans Casino and dockside gambling for the riverboats. However, more items could be added to the call which does not have to be issued until five (5) days before the session begins.

PAC'S (Political Action Committees) operating in Louisiana must file annually a "Statement of Organization" by January 31st and a "Committee's Report" by February 15th with the office of Campaign Finance, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809-1400. Failure to file these reports may result in civil and possibly criminal fines. There is an exemption for a PAC that (1) supports candidates in states other than Louisiana, (2) receives less than 50% of its receipts during a calendar year from persons in Louisiana and (3) expends less than 50% of its disbursements during a calendar year, but not more than \$20,000 to support or oppose Louisiana candidates. However, if a PAC qualifies for this exemption but makes a contribution or expenditure in Louisiana it must file a copy of that portion of its Federal Election Commission (FEC) report with Louisiana not more than ten (10) days after it files the report with the FEC.

In addition to the annual reports, PAC's that contribute to candidates for a major office (statewide offices, public service commission and the Supreme Court) must file interim reports. If the contribution is made more than 180 days prior to the primary, reports must be filed no later than the 180th, 90th,



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40th and 10th day prior to the primary. If the contribution is made less than 180 days, but more than 90 days prior to the primary, the reports for the 90th, 40th and 10th day must be filed and so on. The Board of Ethics is very helpful in answering questions on PEC reporting requirements.

Remember that these legal principles may change and vary widely in their application to specific factual circumstances. You should consult with counsel about your individual circumstances. For further information regarding these issues, contact:

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