A draft game-related bill currently being discussed in Macao would reportedly allow the region's chief executive to quickly terminate the region's casino operating license if the owner is found to have violated the scope of national security regulations.

According to a report by Inside Asian Gaming, the proposed amendment in the former Portuguese territory is currently under closed deliberation after its successful first reading, and the move is expected to allow all six casino operators in the jurisdiction to extend their existing licenses for another 10 years until June 2032 after the new bidding process is completed, the source said.

Macau has more than 40 casinos operated by SJM Holdings Limited, Galaxy Entertainment Group Limited, Melco Resorts and Entertainment Limited, MGM China Holdings Limited, Win Resorts Limited's local win Macau Limited and Sands China Limited, respectively. However, sources detailed that the companies' current licenses are all set to expire in June, and there is a draft gaming bill proposing extending existing concessions as long as they agree to comply with a strict set of new rules.

Congressman and restaurateur Andrew Chan-Chakmo, pictured, is leading a confidential review of the proposed legislation, which he reportedly said could eventually include a provision that allows the region's chief executive to immediately revoke casino concessions without compensation if the owner is suspected of endangering the country's safety.

"If national security is involved, the government will deal with the concept of 'uncertainty' rather than the national security law. But an executive order would be a better option, as the judicial process drags on and the license period could end by then."

Chan also reportedly said such cancellations would need to include deliberations with the Game Inspection and Coordination Bureau's regulators and could impose an obligation on the top administration to provide evidence of criminal acts such as treason, subversion, incitement or espionage. The legislator was also quoted as saying that the candidates could be given the right to appeal further through litigation.

Inside Asian Gaming reported that the final version of the draft gaming bill is widely expected to be voted on at the 33-member General Assembly by the end of June. You want to have everything before the six casino licenses expire.

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