



July 9, 2013

[AM Alert: Are California card rooms gearing up for a fight?](#)

It's a slow week in the Capitol, with the Assembly on [summer recess](#) and the Senate fielding several absences. The Senate whipped through many non-controversial bills yesterday, though seven senators did not attend the floor session, and the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee couldn't vote because it was short a quorum.

Today, at least two senators are doing business out of state. Sen. **Kevin de León** will be making a presentation in Colorado, while Sen. **Ricardo Lara** is getting schooled in Cambridge, Mass. De León is addressing the [Aspen Institute](#)'s "Financial Security Summit" to talk about his bill from last year that paves the way for retirement savings plans for private-sector workers. Lara is attending a program at the **Harvard Kennedy School** for senior executives in state and local government. He's one of 10 gay public officials who are attending the \$12,000 training on a fellowship sponsored by the Victory Fund and the David Bohnett Foundation.

KNOW WHEN TO HOLD 'EM: The state's card rooms appear to be gearing up for a fight, forming a new 501(c)4 association and hiring at least two Sacramento lobbying firms. "**Communities for California Cardrooms**" is trying to make the case that the state's 88 card rooms are important economic drivers for their localities. The group has retained Darius Anderson's **Platinum Advisors** as well as **Rodney J. Blonien and Associates**. Does that mean there's movement on an internet poker bill that might not sit well with card rooms? "That has not been on our [radar screen](#) yet," said **Austin Lee**, a spokesman for the new group. But Internet poker could soon become important, he said, "because there are some competitive issues there."

PHOTO: Minh Chang of Sacramento plays Pai Gow poker at the Capitol Casino in downtown Sacramento, 2006. Sacramento Bee/ Brian Baer

###