



# Racino double-down eyed

By ERIK KRISS

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ALBANY — An expanded racino at Aqueduct would more than double the state’s annual take from the racetrack gambling hall, raising the projected payout to \$700 million, The Post has learned.

Gov. Cuomo favors expanding the racino in exchange for its private operator, the Genting Group, spending \$4 billion to build what would be the nation’s largest convention center at the Queens site.

A racino expansion would net the state more than \$700 million per year by a “conservative estimate” based on the state’s analysis of Genting’s projections, according to a senior Cuomo administration official.

The current racino, without the expansion, is estimated to bring the state \$350 million a year.

The state takes 70 percent of racino revenues, but would take a smaller cut on new machines, said Cuomo aide Howard Glaser.

Cuomo himself yesterday revealed that despite his efforts to legalize Las Vegas-style casinos in New York, he last gambled in a casino “many, many years ago — and I lost.”

He also told reporters he’s never laid down a wager at any of New York’s nine racinos and hasn’t played the state-sponsored lottery in “months.”

Cuomo argues New York is surrounded by casinos in neighboring states — as well as racetrack gambling halls and Indian-run casinos within its own borders — and should get a cut of the revenues.

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