OFA Bill Analysis

SB 858

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT AND MOHEGAN FUND.

SUMMARY:

The bill makes the following changes regarding the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan grant.

- Maintains current funding levels through FY 26, but does not specify funding in FY 27.
- Increases the grant total by approximately \$86.9 million for a new total of \$139.38 million beginning in FY 28.
- Prevents this grant amount from being reduced except by certification of an emergency from the Governor and a two-thirds vote from the members of the General Assembly.
- Increases the grant payment to Ledyard and Montville in the event that the state revokes taxation of non-Indian personal property on reservation land.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Grant

PA 93-388 established the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund. This fund is a separate, nonlapsing fund containing revenue from casino gaming. Casino gaming revenue is deposited into the General Fund and then transferred to the fund, in an amount equal to the grants to be distributed. Money in this fund is distributed to municipalities according to various factors, including the value of state-owned property, private college and general hospitals, population, equalized net grand list, and per capita income. Host towns receive additional payments, and three tribes also receive grants.

Currently, towns receive the same Pequot grant they received in FY 20. Since FY 16, the total grant amount has ranged from \$49.9 million to \$61.7 million. In FY 25, the appropriation for this grant is approximately \$52.5 million.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Appropriations

Joint Favorable Substitute Yea 54 Nay 0 (04/24/2025)