

Dead baby found in casino trash bin; Safe-Haven bill faces Assembly vote

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A dead baby was found in a trash bin at the Harrah's Las Vegas on Monday, just a day before the Assembly examines legislation designed to prevent such incidents.

State Sen. Ray Rawson said he hopes that his Baby Safe-Haven bill will receive final legislative approval in the Assembly today.

Rawson, R-Las Vegas, said late Monday he sees the discovery at Harrah's as further proof that Senate Bill 191 is necessary.

"It may not stop all of these babies' deaths, but it will stop some of them," he said. "This demonstrates its pertinence."

The bill would allow mothers to safely leave their babies at hospitals, churches or fire stations without fear of prosecution. Any baby taken in under those circumstances would become a ward of the state.

Las Vegas police Lt. Wayne Petersen said a baby was found in a plastic bag at 12:40 p.m. by someone sorting through trash for recyclable materials at the resort, 3475 Las Vegas Blvd. South.

It could not be immediately

determined whether the male baby died before or after birth. A medical examination is pending, and police are trying to identify the child's mother.

"At this time it certainly does not look promising," Petersen said of the search for the parent, noting that it will be difficult to determine which part of the resort the trash came from.

In a similar case Feb. 6, a baby subsequently referred to as Baby Boy Atlantic was found by a man rummaging through a trash bin at Olive and Atlantic streets, near Charleston Boulevard and Eastern Avenue.

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