Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: **September 10, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**
Place: **Massachusetts Gaming Commission**
VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: +1-213-631-9908
PHONE CONFERENCE ID: 624 498 026#

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. Use of this technology was intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Jordan Maynard
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Bradford Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner
Commissioner Paul Brodeur

1. Call to Order (00:00)

Chair Maynard called to order the 597th Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and all five Commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. Administrative Update (04:08)

Executive Director Dean Serpa introduced Director of Research and Responsible Gaming Mark Vander Linden to provide several updates. He discussed Responsible Gaming Education Month ("RGEM") which is an initiative launched by the American Gaming Association that focuses on promoting gambling literacy, consumer education, and employee training. He stated that this month, the PlayWell team developed three new activities to promote gambling literacy and a targeted social media awareness campaign.

Director Vander Linden notified the Commission that the Massachusetts Lottery launched iLottery on July 27, 2026. He noted that before the iLottery launch, the Division of Research and Responsible Gaming worked with Lottery staff to include iLottery in the Voluntary Self-Exclusion ("VSE") program in which 67 individuals signed up since launch.

Director Vander Linden also provided an update on the player data project in accordance with Section 97 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011. He explained that casino licensees are required to provide the Commission with player data, which has been anonymized and made available to qualified researchers. He noted that the Commission partnered with the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute to work with idPair to anonymize the player data and update the stored data on a quarterly basis. He stated that an application to access the data was available on the Commission's website.

Commissioner Brodeur asked if the Section 97 data requirements were unique to Massachusetts. Director Vander Linden stated that while some jurisdictions outside of the United States had similar provisions, this was a unique requirement in the United States. He noted that some jurisdictions required data to be sent to specific institutions, but Massachusetts' law required the data to be broadly available to qualified researchers.

3. Meeting minutes (14:23)

    a. July 28, 2026

The July 28, 2026 public meeting minutes were included in the Revised Commissioners' Packet on pages 4 through 9.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission approve the meeting minutes included in the Commissioners' Packet from July 28, 2026, subject to any necessary changes for typographical errors or other non-material matters. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Abstain.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*
Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed, 4-0 with one abstention.

    b. August 13, 2026 (15:11)

The August 13, 2026 public meeting minutes were included in the Revised Commissioners' Packet on pages 10 through 14.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission approve the minutes from August 13, 2026 Commission meeting as included in the Commissioners' Packet, subject to any necessary changes for typographical errors or other non-material matters. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Aye.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*

Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

4. Racing (16:09)

a. Standardbred Owners of Massachusetts Recognition

Director of Racing and Chief Veterinarian Dr. Alexandra Lightbown presented the request from the Standardbred Owners of Massachusetts ("SOM") to be the group representing Massachusetts Standardbred Breeders. She noted that this recognition was in accordance with G.L. c. 128, § 2(j) and that the SOM had been recognized in this role since 1992. *A memorandum regarding the SOM Recognition was included in the Revised Commissioners' Packet on pages 15 through 16.*

SOM's Secretary and Treasurer Nancy Longobardi stated that the Sire Stakes races were renamed to the Breeders Stakes as the program was more mare driven. She noted that the program had the largest total number of broodmares to date, with 174 broodmares registered. She stated that there were 128 two-year old horses and 80 three-year old horses eligible for the Breeders Stakes races. She explained that Homicide Hunter, a retired world-record holding trotter, was present for the Spirit of Massachusetts Day at Plainridge Park Casino ("PPC"). Commissioner O'Brien expressed an interest in having the Commission visit the SOM farms.

Commissioner Hill moved that, in accordance with G.L. c. 128, § 2(j), the Commission approve the request of the Standardbred Owners of Massachusetts, Inc. to be recognized as the group of representative Standardbred breeders to administer the Massachusetts Standardbred breeding program and the Breeders Stake races for 2026, as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Aye.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*
Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

5. Community Affairs Division (27:18)

a. MGM Springfield Q2 2026 Quarterly Report

Blue Tarp reDevelopment d/b/a MGM Springfield's ("MGM") VP and Legal Counsel Gus Kim, Executive Director of Finance Wynter Hawkins, Director of Public Relations Beth Ward, and Director of Compliance Daniel Miller presented MGM's Q2 quarterly report with topics including the following: revenue, taxes, lottery sales, vendor diversity, employment diversity,

compliance, and community outreach. *MGM's Q2 Quarterly Report Presentation was included in the Revised Commissioners' Packet on pages 17 through 42.*

Chair Maynard noted that MGM had lost some big vendors and asked whether MGM would be able to close the gap to reach its vendor diversity goals. Ms. Hawkins stated that MGM planned to close the gap by finding other suitable vendors though she was not certain MGM would reach 100% of the goal.

6. Sports Wagering Division (49:27)

    a. Caesars' Request for Temporary Waiver from 205 CMR 247.07 Related to the Segregation of Rewards Derived from Credit Card Purchases

Chief of Sports Wagering Division Carrie Torrisi presented American Wagering, Inc. d/b/a Caesars Sportsbook's ("Caesars") request for a temporary waiver from the requirements in 205 CMR 247.07 as they relate to the segregation of rewards derived from credit card purchases. *A memorandum and Caesars' request were included in the Revised Commissioners' Packet on pages 43 through 46.*

Caesars' Outside Counsel from Greenberg Traurig Bob Ross explained that development of a state-specific workaround for Caesars' credit card rewards program was ongoing and would take months of implementation time. Caesars' VP of Compliance and Licensing Lisa Rankin explained that under their program, rewards can be earned in various ways, via digital and physical products, and that not all rewards earned may be from credit card use. She explained that the difficulty in implementing the change was segregating only credit card rewards but not rewards earned via other channels.

Commissioner Skinner moved that, pursuant to 205 CMR 202.03(2), the Commission approve Caesars' request for a temporary waiver from the requirements set forth in 205 CMR 247.07 as such specifically relates to rewards derived from credit cards through December 31, 2026, as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today, as granting the temporary waiver meets the requirements specified in 205 CMR 102.03(4) and is consistent with G.L. c. 23N. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Aye.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*
Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. Updates to Caesars' House Rules (57:03)

Compliance Officer Griffin Miniutti presented proposed updates to Caesars' House Rules. *A memorandum and the updated House Rules were included in the Revised Commissioners' Packet on pages 47 through 52.*

Commissioner Brodeur noted that this house rules change was intended to recalibrate the market and player expectations. He stated that this was in contrast to the unregulated market, explaining that a dispute recently arose when the prediction market Kalshi settled an $18.6 million market on a Western Michigan game before the game had resolved. He stated that the Commission had rules to prevent that from occurring in a regulated market. Chair Maynard stated that such pseudo-regulated companies also permitted wagering on markets that are not permitted by the Commission, such as wagering on player injuries.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the updates to Caesars' House Rules as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Aye.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*
Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

7. Research and Responsible Gaming (1:12:47)

a. Discussion of National Council on Problem Gaming membership

Director Vander Linden explained that the National Council on Problem Gaming ("NCPG") had accepted a $2 million donation from Kalshi. He noted that the Michigan Gaming Control Board, Ohio Casino Control Commission, and Nevada Council on Problem Gambling had since terminated their NCPG memberships. He stated that the NCPG has a long and impactful history of promoting awareness, providing education, and advocacy to reduce gambling-related harms and that the NCPG's priorities remained aligned with the Commission's priorities. He recommended that the Commission maintain its NCPG membership. *A memorandum regarding the Commission's membership with NCPG was included in the Revised Commissioners' Packet on pages 53 through 55.*

Commissioner Hill stated that the Commission's opinion on prediction markets was clear and that he had no concerns with the Commission maintaining its NCPG membership.

Commissioner Skinner stated that the NCPG's creation of a new category regarding financial services and trading seemed to legitimize companies like Kalshi which runs counter to the foundational principles of responsible gaming. She expressed that gaming is for entertainment and should not be viewed as an investment or money making.

Commissioner Skinner further stated that the Commission has been clear regarding its opinion of prediction markets and noted that breaking ties with the NCPG would be inconsistent with the way the Commission treats its operators who engage in prediction markets in other jurisdictions, referring to the Commission's November letter to its operators regarding the offering of sports prediction markets in Massachusetts. She stated that she did not want the Commission to appear selective in how they approach policy creation regarding prediction markets. She stated that she would accept Director Vander Linden's recommendation.

Commissioner Brodeur stated that he appreciated the information presented by Director Vander Linden and agreed with the conclusion that the Commission should maintain its NCPG membership but noted that he wanted to keep an eye on the evolution of this issue. He explained that his issue with prediction markets was the way in which they were described, marketed, and the fact that they were unregulated. He also noted that the federal government up until recently had not invested funding into the research of public health impacts related to gambling and that he credited the Massachusetts Legislature for the investment into gambling research. He stated that if prediction market operators tried to grow their presence further in this area, it would be worth reviewing the matter.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that she agreed with Director Vander Linden's recommendation but echoed Commissioner Skinner's concerns. She stated that if the NCPG accepted too much money from a prediction market company, it may no longer be a gray area. She expressed an interest in monitoring this issue and stated that there may be a time sooner than later when the Commission needs to sever ties with the NCPG.

Chair Maynard noted that there was pending litigation regarding prediction markets and that the outcome of those cases may change the Commission's view. He expressed hope that the NCPG could influence any members that join the council but that he would also like the Commission to keep an eye on this issue. He expressed that the NCPG would continue to stand for the Commission's values and that would not change just because they took money from a prediction market. He stated that he agreed with Director Vander Linden's recommendation but there could be further discussion when the Commission renews its NCPG membership. The Commission reached a consensus to maintain its NCPG membership.

8. Legal Division (1:29:57)

    a. 205 CMR 255.00: Play Management – Discussion and Review of Regulation and Small Business Impact Statement for authorization to begin the promulgation process

Staff Attorney Autumn Birarelli presented proposed amendments to 205 CMR 255.00. *A memorandum, redline draft of 205 CMR 255.00, and Small Business Impact Statement were included in the Revised Commissioners' Packet on pages 56 through 62.*

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the Small Business Impact Statement and the draft of 205 CMR 255.00 as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today, and further that staff be authorized to take steps necessary to file the

required documentation with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to begin the regulation promulgation process. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Aye.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*
Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. Approval of New Table Game Variation for Midi Baccarat and Mini Baccarat (1:33:00)

Senior Associate General Counsel Judith Young presented a request for approval of a new table game variation for midi baccarat and mini baccarat. She noted that the revised rules for this game were not included in the public meeting packet but that they would be posted shortly. Chair Maynard noted that the Commissioners had the opportunity to be briefed on this game variation and were able to review the draft rules. *A memorandum and the table games rules for midi and mini baccarat were included in the Revised Commissioners' Packet on pages 63 through 96.*

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the adoption of Tiger Baccarat as a game variation to Midi and Mini Baccarat and the associated updated rules, as discussed today and which will be included in an updated packet. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Aye.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*
Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Chair Maynard noted that he would take Agenda Items 11 and 12 out of order as the Commission did not anticipate returning to the public meeting session after meeting in executive session.

9. Investigations and Enforcement Bureau (1:39:54)

a. Year-End 2025 Gaming Financial Review

Director of the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau ("IEB") Caitlin Monahan explained that the IEB was requesting an executive session to discuss the year-end 2025 gaming financial review. Commissioner Brodeur inquired as to why an executive session was recommended. Director Monahan explained that as part of the ongoing suitability process, the operators

provided a substantial amount of financial information that was not publicly available and covered by the non-disclosure agreements between the Commission and each gaming licensee.

i. Executive Session (1:41:27)

Chair Maynard stated that the Commission anticipated it would convene in an executive session in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 23K, §21(a)(7) for the specific purpose of reviewing information and reports submitted relative to Encore Boston Harbor ("EBH"); Plainridge Park Casino ("PPC"); and MGM Springfield ("MGM") relative to the Commission's review of finances for gaming licensees in 2025. He stated that this matter is further governed by 205 CMR 139.02, as discussion of this matter in public would frustrate the purpose of the statute and associated legal authorities as the information and reports at issue are covered by nondisclosure agreements between the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and its three Gaming Licensees.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission go into executive session for the reasons provided in the Chair's comments immediately prior to the motion. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Aye.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*
Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

10. Litigation Update – Massachusetts Gaming Commission v. Landmark American Insurance Company (1:42:59)

a. Executive Session

Chair Maynard state that the Commission anticipates it would convene in an executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to Massachusetts Gaming Commission v. Landmark American Insurance Company, as discussion at an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Commission.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission go into executive session on the matter and for the reasons just stated by the Chair. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: *Aye.*
Commissioner Hill: *Aye.*
Commissioner Skinner: *Aye.*
Commissioner Brodeur: *Aye.*
Chair Maynard: *Aye.*

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Transcriber's Note: The Commission entered executive session at 11:43 A.M. and did not return to the public meeting session.

11. Commissioner Updates (1:39:31)

Chair Maynard inquired if there were any Commissioner Updates and received no response.

12. Other Business (1:39:41)

Hearing no other business, the Commission returned to Agenda Item 9.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated September 8, 2026.
2. Revised Commissioners' Packet from the September 10, 2026, meeting (posted on massgaming.com).