



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Gaming Commission

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**The Massachusetts Gaming Commission Seeks Public Participation Regarding the
Review of Charitable Gaming Rules and Regulations**

As part of an ongoing commitment to community engagement, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) is seeking public comment on regulations related to charitable gaming. In November 2011 the state Legislature passed the expanded gaming law which designated the newly formed gaming commission as the regulatory agency responsible for developing and managing the process to select, license, oversee, and regulate all expanded gaming facilities in the Commonwealth. In addition to those responsibilities, the legislation also requires the Commission to review existing laws that permit charitable gaming. The Commission is focused on fulfilling that duty and as part of that process is requesting the participation of individuals and organizations familiar with the current rules and regulations for charitable gaming.

The applicable state law recognizes and permits four kinds of charitable gaming, namely bingo, which is often referred to as beano, charity game tickets, raffles and "bazaars." Bazaars are the "Monte Carlo" or "casino" nights sponsored by many charitable organizations.

After reviewing the existing laws, the Commission is required to report to the Legislature on the efficacy of the laws and any need to update, redraft or repeal them. According to the 2011 annual report of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, approximately \$75.5 million was wagered on the four varieties of charitable games during calendar year 2011. That wagering produced a total of \$18.2 million for the sponsoring charities.

As part of its assessment of charitable gaming in Massachusetts and in preparation for its report to the Legislature, the Commission would welcome any comments from charities, town officials and citizens regarding how well the laws governing charitable gaming are working today and how they could be improved. Comments may be sent on or before July 18, 2012, to the Commission by e-mail at mgcccomments@state.ma.us with "charitable gaming" in the subject line or by regular mail addressed to the Commission at 84 State Street, Suite 720, Boston, Massachusetts, 02109.

MGC Commissioner Jim McHugh stated, "Ensuring the protection of citizens who participate in charitable gaming activities is critical to maintaining public confidence and a sense of fairness. A strict regulation of charitable gaming ensures that the real winners are the many charities and non-profit organization who benefit from its existence. MGC requests the feedback from the various organizations that have extensive experience in this area and welcomes any ideas as to the best and most promising practices."

As a reminder, MGC has launched its social media efforts aimed at connecting with the community and providing a platform for online engagement. MGC has launched Twitter (@MassGamingComm), Facebook (www.facebook.com/MAGamingComm), and a Youtube page and anticipates upcoming improvements to the website. This network of outreach will provide timely and important gaming information to residents, business owners, and individuals seeking the latest gaming news.

About MGC

The mission of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is to create a fair, transparent, and participatory process for implementing the expanded gaming law passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in November, 2011. In creating that process, the Commission will strive to ensure that its decision-making and regulatory systems engender the confidence of the public and participants, and that they provide the greatest possible economic development benefits and revenues to the people of the Commonwealth, reduce to the maximum extent possible the potentially negative or unintended consequences of the new legislation, and allow an appropriate return on investment for gaming providers that assures the operation of casino-resorts of the highest quality. For more information on MGC, please visit www.mass.gov/gaming or connect and share on Twitter (@MassGamingComm) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MAGamingComm).

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