



NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25), and St. 2025, c. 2, notice is hereby given of a public meeting of the **Massachusetts Gaming Commission**. The meeting will take place:

Thursday | April 10, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.
VIA REMOTE ACCESS: 1-646-741-5292
MEETING ID/ PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 191 8193
All meetings are streamed live at www.massgaming.com.

Please note that the Commission will conduct this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. Use of this technology is intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public. If there is any technical problem with the Commission's remote connection, an alternative conference line will be noticed immediately on www.massgaming.com.

All documents and presentations related to this agenda will be available for your review on the morning of the meeting date by visiting our website and clicking on the News header, under the Meeting Archives drop-down.

PUBLIC MEETING - #551

1. Call to Order – Jordan Maynard, Chair

2. Meeting Minutes

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| a. January 9, 2023 | VOTE |
| b. March 26, 2024 | VOTE |
| c. September 26, 2024 | VOTE |
| d. March 11, 2025 | VOTE |

3. Legislative Update – Commissioner Brad Hill

4. Administrative Update – Dean Serpa, Executive Director



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

5. Discussion regarding collective bargaining of the SEIU Local 888 Agreement – Dean Serpa, Executive Director; Caitlin Monahan, IEB Director; David Connelly, Esq., outside counsel to MGC

- a. Executive Session **VOTE**
The Commission anticipates that it will meet in executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining of the SEIU Local 888 Agreement, as discussion at an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Commission. The public session of the meeting will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session.

6. Legal – Todd Grossman, General Counsel

- a. Meeting Minutes - Executive Session **VOTE**
The Commission it will meet in executive session in conjunction with its review of minutes from previous executive sessions that were convened in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) (February 14, 2023, May 23, 2024, June 17, 2024, and June 20, 2024); G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 4, § 7(26)(f) (May 23, 2024); G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 23N, § 6(i) (May 23, 2024); G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7); and G. L. c. 4, § 7(26)(n) (April 29, 2024 1:23PM, and April 29, 2024 2:12PM) as their discussion at an open meeting may frustrate the intended purpose for which the executive sessions were convened. The public session of the meeting will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session.
- I. February 14, 2023 **VOTE**
II. April 29, 2024 (1:23PM) **VOTE**
III. April 29, 2024 (2:12PM) **VOTE**
IV. May 23, 2024 **VOTE**
V. June 17, 2024 **VOTE**
VI. June 20, 2024 **VOTE**
- b. 205 CMR 247.03: Petition for a Sporting Event or Wager Category - Discussion and Review of Regulation Amendment and Amended Small Business Impact Statement for final adoption by Commission – Ying Wang, Associate General Counsel **VOTE**
- c. 205 CMR 3.00: Harness Horse Racing – Discussion and Review of Regulation Amendments and Small Business Impact Statement for authorization for emergency enactment and to begin the promulgation process by the Commission – Melanie Foxx, Associate General Counsel, Justin Stempeck, Deputy General Counsel and Dr. Alex Lightbown, Director of Racing
- I. 205 CMR 3.13(13): Licensee: duties and obligations **VOTE**
II. 205 CMR 3.15(3): Owners **VOTE**
III. 205 CMR 3.21(7): Trainers **VOTE**
IV. 205 CMR 3.23(12)(13): Claiming Races **VOTE**



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

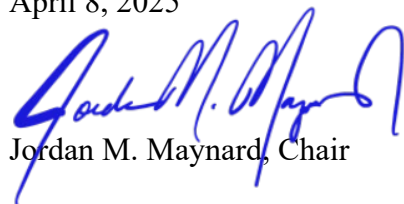
- V. 205 CMR 3.32(3)(k): Testing
- VI. 205 CMR 3.33(6): Postmortem Examinations

VOTE
VOTE

- 7. Presentation by Local Enterprise Assistance Fund (LEAF) – Derek Lennon, CFAO; John Scully, Finance and Budget Office Manager; Boniswa Sundai, Senior DEI Program Manager
- 8. Racing Division – Dr. Alexandra Lightbown, Director of Racing
 - a. Jockey’s Guild Recognition – Mindy Coleman, Attorney for the Jockey’s Guild **VOTE**
 - b. Racing 2024 Annual Report
- 9. Sports Wagering Division – Carrie Torrisi, Division Chief, Sports Wagering
 - a. DraftKings Request to Void Wagers pursuant to 205 CMR 238.35(2) – Andrew Steffen, Compliance and Operations Manager **VOTE**
 - b. Update on Wager Limitations by Operator Discussions
- 10. Research and Responsible Gaming – Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming
 - a. Proposed FY26 Research Agenda
- 11. Commissioner Updates
- 12. Other Business - Reserved for matters the Chair did not reasonably anticipate at the time of posting.

I certify that this Notice was posted as “Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting” at www.massgaming.com and emailed to regs@sec.state.ma.us. Posted to Website: April 8, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. EST

April 8, 2025



Jordan M. Maynard, Chair

*If there are any questions pertaining to accessibility and/or further assistance is needed,
please email Grace.Robinson@massgaming.gov.*



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

101 Federal Street, 12th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 | TEL 617.979.8400 | FAX 617.725.0258 | www.massgaming.com



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: January 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292

PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 1431 1966

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 Cathy Judd-Stein

Commissioner Eileen O'Brien

Commissioner Bradford Hill

Commissioner Nakisha Skinner

Commissioner Jordan Maynard

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:00)

Chair Judd-Stein called to order the 420th Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and all five commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Evaluation Process](#) (01:16)

Chair Judd-Stein stated that the Commission would evaluate the category three sports wagering license application submitted by Betfair Interactive US, LLC d/b/a FanDuel ("FanDuel").

- a. [Presentation of application and demonstration of technology and user experience by each applicant for a Category 3 untethered sports wagering operator license in accordance with 205 CMR 218.06\(3\)](#) (01:34)

FanDuel's Vice President of Product and New Market Compliance, Cory Fox, introduced FanDuel's Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, Carolyn Renzin, FanDuel's CFO, David Jennings, FanDuel's Senior Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ("DEI"), Keita Young, FanDuel's President, Christian Genetski, and Outside Counsel from the law firm Womble, Bond, Dickinson (US), LLP, Jed Nosal. Mr. Fox noted that portions of FanDuel's presentation contained commercially sensitive and proprietary information and requested that those topics be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Genetski explained FanDuel's history and experience with the sports wagering industry. He stated that FanDuel has been offering sports wagering since 2018 and had more than 3,000 employees. He stated that FanDuel had \$3 billion in revenue in 2022. He explained that FanDuel operated both retail and online sportsbooks in 21 states. He noted that FanDuel's daily fantasy sports and horseracing products were already available in Massachusetts. He stated that all technology was in-house which allowed FanDuel to have key product innovation.

Mr. Jennings stated that FanDuel's parent company had a market cap in excess of \$25 billion and employed 16,000 employees globally. He stated that FanDuel projected \$200 million in sportsbook tax revenue in the first five years. He stated that FanDuel would spend \$50 million with locally based media in the first five years.

Attorney Renzin stated that every employee was trained on FanDuel's responsible gaming policy and were re-tested annually. She stated that there was a dedicated responsible gaming team with 15 employees. She stated that employees were trained to spot behavioral red flags and evaluate them against a pre-determined risk scale. She stated that FanDuel aired responsible gaming messages more than 10,000 times in 2022. She stated that FanDuel offered Gamban blocking software to individuals who self-excluded through its website and has a responsible gaming ambassador program.

Ms. Young stated that FanDuel was committed to increasing diversity representation at all levels of leadership. She noted that the CEO and 45% of the C-suite were women. She stated that FanDuel was partnered with various diversity organizations and programs. She stated that FanDuel had an ongoing investment with employee resource groups. She stated that FanDuel was developing and implementing a diverse supplier strategy.

Mr. Fox stated that FanDuel had technological expertise regarding geolocation and know-your-customer ("KYC") approaches. He explained the technology related to comprehensive data security controls.

Attorney Renzin stated that FanDuel had a culture of compliance and transparency. She explained that FanDuel had a financial crime program, conduct and integrity programs, and a robust regulatory team. She stated that FanDuel engaged with regulators as partners and reported issues early.

FanDuel's Senior Vice President of Product, Billy Turchin, provided a product demonstration of FanDuel's player management platform. Chair Judd-Stein asked if FanDuel provided notice that a cooling-off period is ending. Attorney Renzin stated there was no affirmative notice provided to patrons that the cooling-off period was ending.

Chair Judd-Stein inquired about the reality check feature on FanDuel's platform. Mr. Turchin stated that it was a prompt that explains the amount of time the player has been using the platform and amount wagered during that time period. Mr. Fox noted that some jurisdictions required players to receive a prompt or be logged out after a certain time period. Commissioner O'Brien asked which jurisdiction required these features. Mr. Fox explained that this feature was required in New Jersey and Connecticut.

Commissioner Hill asked if the platform checked for age between different forms of wagering such as daily fantasy sports, horseracing, and sports wagering. Mr. Fox stated that the platform implements an age check which checks the user's date of birth. He noted that daily fantasy sports and sports wagering both required customers to be 21 or older in Massachusetts. FanDuel's Senior Vice President of Sports Product and Pricing, Conor Farren, provided a technology demonstration for placing a wager on FanDuel's platform.

b. [Presentations and Analysis Relevant to review and evaluation of Application for each Category 3 untethered sports wagering operator license:](#) (1:13:11)

i. [Technical Components](#) (1:14:09)

Gabe Benedik, Client Solutions Executive from Gaming Laboratories International ("GLI"), provided an overview of the certification process and end verification for mobile applications and other digital platforms once they are approved by the Commission. He stated that GLI would verify whether the platform meets all requirements specific to Massachusetts during the verification process.

ii. [Report on suitability of the Applicant](#) (1:20:49)

Chief Enforcement Counsel Heather Hall discussed the Investigation and Enforcement Bureau's ("IEB") report on the preliminary suitability of FanDuel. She noted that the Licensing Division identified six entity qualifiers and four individual qualifiers. She stated that tax certifications from FanDuel's entity qualifiers were not submitted, and that the licensing division was working to get those documents.

iii. [Financial and Economic Impact Analysis RSM US LLP](#) (1:27:11)

Theresa Merlino, Finance Consultant from RSM US LLP ("RSM"), presented on the financial projection estimates provided by FanDuel, including anticipated market size in Massachusetts, year-over-year growth trends, market share data from other jurisdictions, hold percentage over

time, and liquidity of the applicant. She stated that the information provided by FanDuel included competitively sensitive data that would be better addressed in an executive session.

Chief Enforcement Counsel Hall stated that there had been a correction with respect to recorded ownership percentages, and that the topic would be suitable for executive session. Chair Judd-Stein sought clarification regarding the outstanding filing related to the entity qualifiers' tax certifications. Chief of Licensing Kara O'Brien stated that the Licensing Division was waiting on both state and federal tax certifications for FanDuel's six entity qualifiers.

c. Review and evaluation of each Application for a Category 3 untethered sports wagering operator license as submitted by Betfair Interactive US, LLC (d/b/a FanDuel), in accordance with 205 CMR 218.00 including, but not limited to consideration of the following criteria: (1:58:01)

Chair Judd-Stein noted that the Commission would review FanDuel's application at this meeting, and that there would be a holistic review of each category three application on January 18, 2023 and January 19, 2023.

i. Experience and Expertise related to Sports Wagering (205 CMR 218.06(5)(a)) (1:59:39)

Commissioner Hill noted that a broadcaster related to the Cleveland Browns was removed from his position because he had placed a bet on an NFL game. He noted that FanDuel had partnerships with sports leagues and asked what safeguards are in place for the integrity of sports wagering.

Mr. Genetski stated that FanDuel works closely with league partners on developing policies to identify prohibited bettors. Attorney Renzin stated that FanDuel had internal processes in place to work with sports leagues to obtain lists of prohibited players. She noted that FanDuel's terms and conditions prohibited these individuals from using FanDuel's platform. Mr. Farren stated that FanDuel worked with U.S. Integrity and that FanDuel was notified of issues flagged by other competitors.

Chair Judd-Stein expressed concern about the intensity of advertising in the sports wagering industry. Mr. Genetski stated that FanDuel's advertisements were geared towards adults and transparent to consumers. He stated that FanDuel worked with the sports leagues in order to not oversaturate the advertising market.

Commissioner O'Brien asked how many Massachusetts residents used FanDuel's services for daily fantasy sports, horseracing, and sports wagering in neighboring jurisdictions. Mr. Genetski stated that this was confidential and specific information that he would prefer to discuss in executive session.

Commissioner O'Brien requested that FanDuel register as a daily fantasy sports operator in Massachusetts and pay the associated taxes. Mr. Fox stated that FanDuel would register and that the only delay was an issue related to the calculation of daily fantasy sports income attributable to the Commonwealth.

Chair Judd-Stein asked if FanDuel was pre-registering customers before going live. Mr. Fox stated that FanDuel hoped to do pre-live marketing if FanDuel was granted a license. He stated that Massachusetts users could sign up for FanDuel's daily fantasy sports offering but that they could not currently sign up for FanDuel Sportsbook.

The Commission reached a consensus that FanDuel had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section B of the application.

ii. Economic impact and other benefits to the Commonwealth if applicant is awarded a license (205 CMR 218.06(5)(b)) (2:26:38)

Commissioner O'Brien expressed that she would like to see an increase in the number of Massachusetts employees at FanDuel. She asked about how FanDuel intended to utilize local spending. Mr. Genetski stated that FanDuel offers events in states where their platform is offered, and that FanDuel uses local vendors to supply these events. Commissioner Skinner stated that she wanted to see long-term ongoing efforts to engage the community in Massachusetts. She requested that FanDuel supplement its application to include information regarding long-term community engagement efforts.

Commissioner Skinner asked if FanDuel's eighteen Massachusetts employees were full-time or part-time. Mr. Fox confirmed that the employees residing in Massachusetts were full-time remote employees. Commissioner Skinner requested information regarding the diversity of those Massachusetts employees. Mr. Fox agreed to provide that information.

Commissioner Maynard expressed the expectation that FanDuel collaborate with the Massachusetts Lottery. Mr. Genetski stated that FanDuel planned to collaborate with the Massachusetts Lottery, and that he could discuss further details in executive session. Chair Judd-Stein stated that promotion in local establishments was an opportunity for engagement with the lottery and diverse businesses.

Commissioner O'Brien noted that FanDuel had a Women's Leadership and Development program and asked if similar opportunities were available to other minority employees. Ms. Young stated that the Women's Leadership and Development program had just launched and was a pilot program. She stated that other mentoring programs were available through employee resource groups.

Commissioner Hill asked if FanDuel had planned any involvement with food banks, toy drives, or other community engagement opportunities in Massachusetts. Mr. Genetski explained that

FanDuel participated in annual toy drives and specialized community engagement to each specific community.

The Commission reached a consensus that FanDuel had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section C of the application, subject to the Commission's receipt of the requested supplemental information.

iii. [Applicant's willingness to foster racial, ethnic, and gender diversity, equity, and inclusion \(205 CMR 218.06\(5\)\(d\)\)](#) (2:50:38)

Commissioner Skinner noted that FanDuel had listed that the C-suite was 42% women. She asked FanDuel to provide information regarding other underrepresented groups in the C-suite and other management positions. Ms. Young stated that she believed the C-suite was 42% women and 18% underrepresented minorities, and that she would report back to the Commission with the exact figures. She stated that 28% of FanDuel's employees were female, and that 39% of FanDuel's employees were underrepresented minorities.

Commissioner Maynard asked if the Commission would receive percentage goals for supplier diversity spending. Ms. Young stated that FanDuel was taking steps to identify diverse vendors. Mr. Genetski stated that FanDuel would provide its diverse spending action plan for 2023.

The Commission reached a consensus that FanDuel had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section D of the application, subject to the Commission's receipt of the requested supplemental information.

iv. [Proposed measures related to responsible gaming \(205 CMR 218.06\(5\)\(c\)\)](#) (3:04:09)

Commissioner O'Brien asked what changes FanDuel had made as a result of the daily 2016 and 2017 fantasy sports settlements in New York and Massachusetts. Mr. Genetski noted that daily fantasy sports was unregulated as of 2015. He stated that FanDuel worked with the Massachusetts Attorney General to develop consumer protection regulations for daily fantasy sports. He stated that FanDuel had implemented all required changes and were in compliance with the fantasy sports regulations by the time of the settlement.

Commissioner O'Brien inquired about FanDuel's use of responsible gaming ambassadors. Mr. Genetski stated that one responsible gaming ambassador focused on responsible gaming for the average customer, and that the other ambassador focused on those with compulsive tendencies. He stated that it was helpful to have an ambassador discuss their own troubles related to gambling at town halls and colleges.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that she had questions related to open matters listed in Section E3(F)(1) of the application. Attorney Nosal requested that any matters that were not public be discussed in executive session.

Commissioner Skinner asked for details related to the lawsuit filed by Mr. Manganaro. FanDuel's Senior Director of Litigation Robert Dunn stated that Mr. Manganaro filed a lawsuit in New Jersey regarding an incorrect understanding of withdrawing deposits. He stated that FanDuel was contesting that litigation. Commissioner Skinner asked how much the deposit in question was. Mr. Dunn stated that it was a \$500 deposit with \$300 remaining in the customer's account.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that she had questions regarding a matter from New Jersey listed in Section E3(F)(1) of the application. Mr. Genetski stated that he would prefer to discuss that matter in executive session.

Commissioner O'Brien inquired about the tenth item listed in Section E3(F)(1) of the application. Attorney Renzin stated that during a routine audit, FanDuel discovered that one of its KYC providers had incorrect settings for customer age. She stated that underage individuals could be verified under KYC protocols, but that they were not able to deposit, withdraw, or wager on FanDuel's platform. She stated that FanDuel then conducted a more fulsome investigation of its KYC providers.

Commissioner O'Brien noted that the 21st item listed in Section E3(F)(1) of the application was marked as pending. Mr. Fox explained that the matter was not pending, and that there was no final disposition following the warning letter. Commissioner O'Brien asked to discuss the timeline of this matter in executive session.

Chair Judd-Stein inquired about the settlement from Connecticut. Attorney Renzin stated that more details could be provided in executive session. Commissioner Hill stated that any consensus as to whether FanDuel met the Commission's expectations with regard to this section of the application should be taken after the executive session.

v. [Technology that the applicant intends to use \(205 CMR 218.06\(5\)\(e\)\)](#) (3:40:20)

Chair Judd-Stein asked where FanDuel's server would be located. Mr. Fox stated that FanDuel was working with a vendor to determine server location.

The Commission reached a consensus that FanDuel had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section F of the application.

vi. [Suitability of the applicant and its qualifiers \(205 CMR 218.06\(5\)\(f\)\)](#) (3:43:58)

Commissioner O'Brien sought clarification regarding the patent lawsuit. Mr. Dunn explained that a patent holding company had filed an infringement claim against FanDuel and other operators regarding geolocation services. He noted that the lawsuit was dismissed in district court and appealed.

Commissioner O'Brien asked about an employee termination lawsuit. Mr. Dunn noted that the employee did not work at FanDuel but at a sister company owned by the same parent company. He explained that the plaintiff was not an employee of FanDuel, and that FanDuel had no control over the plaintiff's termination.

Chair Judd-Stein stated that any consensus as to whether FanDuel met the Commission's expectations with regard to this section of the application would be taken after the executive session.

d. [Executive Session](#) (3:48:02)

General Counsel Grossman reiterated the matters identified for discussion in executive session and stated that the topics would be appropriate for executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 23N, § 6(i).

Chair Judd-Stein stated that the Commission anticipated that it would meet in executive session in conjunction with its review of each of the category 3 untethered applications in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 23N, § 6(i) to consider information submitted by the applicants in the course of the respective applications for an operator license, as examined by RSM US LLP in the context of any discussed financial metrics, ratios, or associated financial measures, that are a trade secret, competitively-sensitive or proprietary and which if disclosed publicly would place then applicant at a competitive disadvantage.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission go into executive session on the matters delineated by General Counsel Grossman and for the reasons set forth by the Chair.

Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Maynard: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Chair Judd-Stein noted that the public session of the Commission meeting would reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session.

Transcriber's Note: The Commission entered executive session and returned to the public session of the meeting at [5:21:26](#).

The Commission reached a consensus that FanDuel had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section E of the application. The Commission reached a consensus that FanDuel had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section G of the application.

Chair Judd-Stein asked what supplemental information was requested. General Counsel Grossman stated that the Commission had requested that FanDuel register as a daily fantasy sports operator and pay the associated taxes. He stated that the Commission had requested a demographic breakdown of FanDuel's Massachusetts-based employees. He stated that the Commission had requested tax certifications from FanDuel's entity qualifiers. He noted that the Commission sought information relative to the exact percentages of underrepresented minorities and women in FanDuel's C-suite.

General Counsel Grossman stated that FanDuel offered to supply the Commission with FanDuel's action plan for supplier diversity. He asked if that information was sufficient for the requests regarding supplier diversity. Commissioner Maynard stated that he wanted available information related to current statistics and requested that diversity spending goals be set. Mr. Genetski stated that the requested information would be provided and that FanDuel would establish such goals.

The Commission thanked FanDuel's representatives for their time.

5. [Other Business](#) (5:32:49)

Hearing no other business, Chair Judd-Stein requested a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner O'Brien moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Maynard: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated January 3, 2023](#)



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: March 26, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292

PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 542 0056

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. The 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:

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

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:04)

Interim Chair Maynard called to order the 510th Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and all four commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Discussion of MGC Involvement in Youth Sports Betting Safety Coalition and Public Announcement](#) (00:55)

Interim Chair Maynard brought forward discussion of the MGC's potential involvement in the Youth Sports Betting Safety Coalition ("Coalition"), a group organized and led by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to combat the problem of individuals under 21 years of age engaging in sports wagering. He noted that the Attorney General's Office was intending to issue a press release and hold a press conference on March 28, 2024 to announce the group and that he, along with Commissioner Hill, both of whom were asked to participate in the Coalition, was seeking the full Commission's approval of their involvement as well as that of any Commission staff. The Attorney General's Office asked the Commission to be involved as the agency which has oversight and regulatory authority over the legal sports betting market.

Both Commissioners O'Brien and Skinner expressed their support for the Commission's involvement in the Coalition. Commissioner Hill clarified that if any requests were made of the Commission by the Coalition, such as for funding, that such requests would be brought before the full Commission for discussion and approval.

Commissioner Hill moved to approve the Commission's participation in the Youth Sports Betting Safety Coalition as discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Subsequent to the Commission's approval of their participation in the Coalition, the Commissioners agreed that Commissioner Hill would speak on behalf of the Commission during Thursday's press conference if he were asked.

3. [Commissioner Updates](#) (10:50)

No Commissioner updates were noted.

4. [Other Business](#) (10:56)

Hearing no other business, Interim Chair Maynard requested a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner O'Brien moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Skinner.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#) dated March 22, 2024



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: September 26, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 620 1781

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. The 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:

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

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:00)

Interim Chair Jordan Maynard called to order the 533rd Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted. All Commissioners were present for the meeting.

- #### 2. [Meeting Minutes](#) (00:49)
- a. December 20, 2022
 - b. August 24, 2023
 - c. October 2, 2023
 - d. November 16, 2023

The four sets of meeting minutes were included in the meeting packet on pages 4 through 93.

Commissioner Skinner moved to approve the minutes from December 20, 2022, October 2, 2023, and November 16, 2023 included in the Commissioner's Packet and discussed here today, subject to any necessary edits for typographical errors or any other non-material matters. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.

Commissioner O'Brien asked about the accuracy of the heading within the August 24, 2023 minutes, noting that Interim Chair Maynard was marked as not present. Interim Chair Maynard offered clarification that he arrived partway through the meeting.

Commissioner Skinner moved to approve the minutes from August 24, 2023 included in the Commissioner's Packet and discussed here today, subject to any necessary edits for typographical errors or any other non-material matters. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Abstain.

Interim Chair Maynard: Aye. For the portions of the meeting he was in attendance.

The motion passed unanimously 3-0. One abstention.

3. [Administrative Update](#) (03:28)

Executive Director Serpa provided an Administrative Update regarding a scheduled Community Mitigation Fund Grantee visit on Thursday September 29, 2024. He stated that the visit would include a walking tour of two occupational education classes of the Metro Boston Regional Hospitality Consortium, followed by a sit-down briefing and discussion with the Grantee. He stated that the walking tour will be a private meeting, with media observing only, while the full briefing would be held as a public meeting with full Commissioner participation and potential media Q&A at the end.

Commissioner Hill asked for confirmation on whether Commissioners would stagger their interactions in the non-public portion or hold questions for the Grantee until the briefing portion of the public meeting. Executive Director Serpa clarified that the idea was for the full Commission to move together as a single group on the walking tour and hold questions until the briefing. Commissioner Hill thanked the Community Affairs Division and Grace Robinson for their work on operationalizing the process for these visits and acknowledged the difficulty of balancing engagement with Open Meeting Law requirements.

Executive Director Serpa also reported that the Commission's Communications Division and HR Division had worked to place an internship application portal on the main website, and it was now operational. He explained that prospective applicants could now find information on how to

apply for open internships within the Commission. Director Serpa added that the Communications Division promoted the opportunity on social media, and they received an application for the Spring 2025 semester. He added that the Commission was currently hosting two six-month Co-op students and had established a new relationship with Northeastern University's Co-op program. Commissioner O'Brien noted her appreciation for the program and excitement that it was coming to fruition.

Executive Director Serpa then introduced Mark Vander Linden, Director of the Division of Research and Responsible Gaming, to provide an update on voluntary self-exclusion. Director Vander Linden highlighted a significant milestone for the program. As of Monday, September 16th, there were over 2,000 people actively enrolled in the program for the first time. He added that this number did not include the 709 people who had previously enrolled in the program and had since been removed from the list. Director Vander Linden also mentioned an early evaluation of the Massachusetts voluntary self-exclusion program which indicated that it was an effective intervention for individuals struggling to control their gambling. Participants in the evaluation reported reduced gambling-related problems, including improvements in their mental health and relationship qualities. Commissioners thanked Director Vander Linden for his presentation and congratulated Director Vander Linden for this milestone.

4. [Community Affairs Division](#) (12:52)

a. Proposed FY2026 Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines

Joe Delaney, Chief of Community Affairs Division, presented the draft FY2026 Community Mitigation Fund guidelines to the Commission for review. *The Draft FY2026 Community Guidelines were included in the meeting packet on pages 93 through 176.* Chief Delaney stated the intent of the Guidelines was to maintain the status quo after the Block Grant system was implemented last year, with additional guidance provided in areas where communities had encountered difficulties in their applications.

Chief Delaney walked Commissioners through portions of the 2026 Guidelines and highlighted additional guidance regarding the definition of "nexus to the casino" for project justification and vehicle purchases. He explained that for vehicle purchases, the vehicle should be for a new effort addressing casino impacts, not a replacement of an existing fleet vehicle. Additionally, an application should detail the percentage of time the vehicle will be used for addressing casino impacts and its proximity to the casino. Chief Delaney cited that minor tweaks to request more documentation in applications, and in the application forms themselves were also made.

Commissioner Hill stated that what was presented was adequate and appropriate, acknowledging the hard work of the Local Mitigation Advisory Committees in both regions who agreed on the proposals. Interim Chair Maynard echoed his appreciation for the regions, realizing the importance of the financial adjustments this year.

Chief Delaney then moved forward to a discussion on Surrounding Host Communities.

b. Discussion of Surrounding Communities, Particularly Regarding the City of Revere

Chief Delaney explained that research was conducted on the relevant laws and regulations regarding surrounding communities, particularly in relation to the City of Revere. He stated that Deputy General Counsel Jenna Hentoff and Associate General Counsel Judith Young from the legal department had provided a memo in the packet detailing their findings. *The memorandum was included on pages 178 through 179 of the meeting packet.*

Chief Delaney explained that the designation of surrounding communities was a one-time event tied to Commission's original Request for Applications (RFA) in 2014 for Gaming Licensees, and Revere did not petition for this designation at that time. He did note, however, that the City of Revere was eligible to receive funding from the Community Mitigation Fund, which they have historically done.

Chief Delaney highlighted that the question was whether Revere could receive additional funding in the Block Grant system, similar to the \$200,000 provided to designated surrounding communities. Chief Delaney summated that due to not being a designated surrounding community within the process contemplated within M.G.L. c. 23K, § 17(a), Revere was not eligible for the Surrounding Community funding through the current block grant formula. Chief Delaney highlighted that Revere could always apply for a waiver to receive additional funding for desired projects and grants that exceeded the amounts they were eligible for. Additionally, the Commission could amend the formula for the Municipal Block Grant Program and allow for additional funds to be permitted for geographically adjacent communities which are not tied to host or surrounding community status.

Commissioner Hill expressed that his inclination was to leave the process as is and reiterated that the City should utilize the waiver process under 205 CMR 153.02(1)(i) for projects beyond their allocated funding. Commissioner Skinner and O'Brien agreed. Interim Chair Maynard expressed that he appreciated that the Commission was willing to work with Revere on projects through the Community Mitigation Fund that fit the law.

Chief Delaney stated that based on the Commissioners' input, they would proceed with the grant allocations as presented in the Guidelines and not make changes at this time. He stated that if Commissioners reached consensus, the Division would post the Guidelines for public comment for a couple of weeks, with the intent to bring them back for final approval at the first public meeting in November.

Interim Chair Maynard and Commissioners reached consensus that the Guidelines could be posted for comment. Chief Delaney thanked the Commissioners for their insights.

5. [Sports Wagering Division](#) (30:45)

a. Update to House Rules

Andrew Steffen, Sports Wagering Operations Manager, provided updates regarding three sports wagering operators' requests to update their House Rules.

i. [BetMGM](#) (30:58)

Starting first with BetMGM, Sports Wagering Operations Manager Steffen highlighted that BetMGM was seeking additional language changes in their house rules regarding Same Game Parlays ("SGPs"). *A memorandum regarding the changes and proposed edits to BetMGM's House Rules was included in the meeting packet on pages 180 through 183.* He stated that the change states that unless specified otherwise in specific sports betting rules for the MLB, NBA, NFL, and NCAA basketball and football, if a selection within an SGP was canceled or voided, the wager odds would be recalculated using the remaining open legs of the parlay. He added that for all other baseball, basketball, and football leagues, if any leg in an SGP was void or canceled, the entire SGP was void. He explained that this change benefits customers for the five specific leagues. Manager Steffen stated that the Sports Wagering Division was recommending approval for this change. Zach Krouse, BetMGM Trading Compliance Analyst, was present to answer any questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Hill moved that the commission approve the updates to BetMGM's House Rules as included in the Commissioner's packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

ii. [MGM Springfield](#) (33:33)

Sports Wagering Operations Manager Steffen presented the changes to MGM Springfield's House Rules for its retail sports book. *A memorandum regarding the changes requested by MGM Springfield was included in the meeting packet on pages 184 through 185.* Mr. Steffen explained that MGM Springfield was requesting a slight clarification to their House Rules, including an additional update to their minimum wager policy at the sportsbook counter, stemming from a recent patron dispute. He added that the updated rules also included the removal of language regarding the minimum length of play for football games, to align with BetMGM's House Rules while they work on an issue with their kiosks. Manager Steffen concluded by stating that the Sports Wagering Division was recommending approval for these changes.

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the updates to MGM Springfield's House Rules as included in the Commissioner's packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

iii. [Caesars](#) (35:38)

Operations Manager Steffen then presented the requested changes to Caesars' House Rules for its online platform. *A memorandum regarding the changes and proposed changes to Caesars' House Rules were included in the meeting packet on pages 186 through 201.* Operations Manager Steffen noted that the changes were more substantial than the first two requests presented to the Commissioners. He explained that the Sports Wagering Division recently requested that Caesars add language to its House Rules prior to offering Cross sport proposition markets, and that Caesars had submitted language to that effect for the Division's review. Operations Manager Steffen offered an example of a cross-sport prop bet, comparing Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes' passing touchdowns versus LeBron James' three-point attempts during a similar time frame, often around the Super Bowl.

Additionally, Operations Manager Steffen stated that Caesars made clarifications to the cash-out feature on the app, as well as within sections detailing golf, field hockey, ice hockey, and tennis. He concluded by stating that the Sports Wagering Division reviewed these changes, confirmed they met the requirements of 205 CMR 247.02, and was now recommending their approval by the Commission.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the updates to Caesar's house rules as included in the commissioner's packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

b. [Commission Consideration to Add Language to Event Catalog to Prohibit Individual Collegiate Awards](#) (42:46)

Operations Manager Steffen stated the next item was an issue that was brought to the attention of the Division regarding potential confusion concerning the prohibition of individual collegiate awards within the Commission's Sports Wagering Event Catalog. He stated that these awards included awards to collegiate athletes, like the Heisman Trophy and Naismith Awards. Mr. Steffen explained that while the catalog prohibits wagers dependent on individual collegiate

athlete performance, the current language on awards was permissive for all approved leagues and did not explicitly exclude collegiate athletes from the category. Bearing this in mind, Operations Manager Steffen stated that the Division proposed adding language to the event catalog to further prohibit these individual collegiate awards, as outlined in the meeting packet. *A memorandum regarding the prohibited wagers was included in the meeting packet on pages 202 through 203.* Mr. Steffen clarified that operators were notified before their platforms launched in 2023 that these markets were not permitted in Massachusetts, and no operator had offered them. He added that this change was being made solely for increased clarity.

Interim Chair Maynard noted the proposed change aligned with his view of the statute. Commissioner O'Brien agreed, and thanked Mr. Steffen for preemptively answering her question about whether there had been any betting on these kind of awards. She expressed her support for clarifying the prohibition.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the commission amend the official catalog of events and wagers to include the prohibition on wagering on individual Collegiate Awards as included in the commissioner's packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

6. [Legal Division](#) (45:18)

- a. 205 CMR 219.04: Applying for Leave to Obtain a Renewed Temporary License-Regulation and Amended Small Business Impact Statement for final review and possible adoption

Carrie Torrisi, Deputy General Counsel, presented the proposed and final amendments to 205 CMR 219.04. *A memorandum, Amended Small Business Impact Statement and draft of the regulation were included on pages 204 through 210 of the meeting packet.* Deputy General Counsel Torrisi stated that the amendments were made to align the regulation with the Commission's original intent of giving the IEB three years to complete its durable suitability review of temporary license holders. She explained that the current regulation language inadvertently gives only two years due to wording regarding "sports wagering license" instead of "sports wagering license renewal". Deputy General Counsel Torrisi stated that a public hearing was held on September 17, 2024 and no public comments were received. The Legal Division was now seeking a vote of approval from the Commission to file the final version of the regulation with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the Amended Small Business Impact Statement and the draft of 205 CMR 219.04 as included in the Commissioner's packet and discussed here today, and further that staff be authorized to take the steps necessary to file the required documentation with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to finalize the regulation promulgation process. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

7. [Research and Responsible Gaming Division](#) (47:52)

a. Update on Section 97 Player Data Project

Mark Vander Linden, Director of the Division of Research and Responsible Gaming, provided an update on the Section 97 Player Data Project. He stated that Section 97 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011 required gaming licensees to supply data from player loyalty programs to the MGC, which then contracts with a research entity to anonymize the data for qualified researchers for harm minimization, harmonization strategies, and high-risk gambling monitoring. Director Vander Linden stated that implementation was delayed in 2014 until all Massachusetts casinos were operational due to competitive disadvantage concerns. Preparations began in 2016, including work with internal and external stakeholders. He stated that the current goal and focus of the Project was on data collection, security, anonymization, and establishing a data enclave.

Director Vander Linden stated that the Division was working with the gaming establishments to address technical challenges, and that their shared goal was to have the data available to researchers by the end of 2025.

Commissioner O'Brien expressed her appreciation for the continued work on this complex and important project, especially considering the various challenges encountered surrounding data collection and retention. Commissioner Hill highlighted the significant impact of COVID-19 and changes in government administrations as major roadblocks to the project's progress and commended Director Vander Linden's team on this very complex issue. Interim Chair Maynard emphasized the importance of this project and the MGC's role as a thought leader in this area and thanked Director Vander Linden and the Division for this initiative and updating the Commissioners on the project.

8. [Investigations and Enforcement Bureau](#) (56:44)

a. Rebrand of the Sportsbook at Plainridge Park Casino to ESPNBet

Karalyn O'Brien, Licensing Division Chief, provided an update on the rebranding initiative of Plainridge Park Casino from Barstool Sportsbook to the ESPNBet. She stated that this was to

align the retail sportsbook with the rebranding of Penn's mobile app to ESPNBet. She stated that despite the name change, there were no substantive changes to the way the retail location would be conducted. *A memorandum regarding the Rebranding of the Sportsbook at Plainridge to ESPNBet was included in the meeting packet on pages 215 and 216.* Chief O'Brien stated that from a licensing perspective, no specific approvals are believed to be necessary according to 205 CMR 136 regarding changes to licensed areas.

Chief O'Brien stated that PPC was aware that they were required to update their internal controls and were working with the Sports Wagering Division. Commissioner Skinner inquired when the rebranding initiative would take effect. Chief O'Brien clarified that there was no vote on this item required before implementation, but that PPC was seeking guidance from the Commission prior to moving forward with the name change. She explained that the delay between updating the mobile app and retail sportsbook was due to uncertainty about which retail locations were going to be rebranded.

Commissioner O'Brien inquired about the kind of guidance PPC was seeking from the Commission. Chief O'Brien stated that the Licensee was acting out of an abundance of caution to ensure that there was no further information or requirements Commissioners wanted to impose prior to beginning their rebranding efforts. Commissioner O'Brien stated that she agreed with the assessment that there was no specific approval necessary under the law but noted that there could be a question related to overall suitability once the final branding product was implemented. She noted that at present, however, she did not see any immediate issues with the plan to rebrand the sportsbook.

Interim Chair Maynard asked if Commissioners were comfortable with what Chief O'Brien presented today and moving forward. Commissioners reached consensus on this matter. Interim Chair Maynard thanked Chief O'Brien for her presentation.

9. [Presentation of Workforce and Vendor Diversity Audit of Encore Boston Harbor, MGM Springfield and Plainridge Park Casino](#) (1:01:57)

Executive Director Serpa introduced the item, reminding Commissioners of the requirements in M.G.L. Chapter 23K, sections 15 and 16 for gaming licensees to have diversity goals for workforce and vendor participation. *A memorandum and presentations regarding the Workforce and Vendor Diversity Audit were included in the meeting packet on pages 217 through 277.* Executive Director Serpa reported that a workforce and vendor diversity audit of Encore Boston Harbor, MGM Springfield, and Plainridge Park Casino was conducted between June 2023 and August 2024. Director Serpa noted that RSM, LLP, performed the audit and had created reports of their findings for the Commission.

Clara Ewing, Senior Director, and Duffy Leidner, Director, from RSM were also present to provide their summaries and findings on the audit. They noted the licensees' cooperation and willingness to provide materials relevant to the audit. Mr. Leidner provided a high-level

overview of the audit's objectives, scope, and methodology, which included on-site visits, interviews, review of tracking systems, and an evaluation of Minority, Women, and Veteran business (“M/W/VBE”) certifications. The RSM team provided recommendations for the Commission including, formalizing definitions of key terms in diversity plans and reports, establishing standardized reporting templates, and collaborating with each licensee to define acceptable M/W/VBE certification agencies.

Commissioner Skinner thanked RSM for their presentation and findings. She also reiterated the licensees' cooperation with the audit. She highlighted challenges due to working with diversity plans dating back to 2014 that were focused on construction and suggested updating regulations to include operational requirements and the sports wagering operators. She also recommended standardizing reporting across all Commission licensees.

Commissioner O'Brien agreed with the issues raised by Commissioner Skinner and noted that when looking at the actual numbers of the licensees, there was a disconnect in some cases. She mentioned that Penn originally based its anticipated numbers for Springfield on that specific demographic and geography, but the location shifted without the numbers changing. She raised the point that as the licensees come up for renewal, this should be revisited. She raised a question about the regulatory authority mandating compliance with diversity numbers for sports wagering licensees who do not have employees in the Commonwealth, compared to the requirement of simply reporting numbers on a quarterly basis. General Counsel Grossman acknowledged that the audit and reporting requirements primarily focused on the casino side but recognized the need to expand into sports wagering. He stated that he would look into the regulatory authority question raised by Commissioner O'Brien.

Interim Chair Maynard thanked RSM, the MGC Diversity Audit team, Commissioner Skinner and Boniswa Sundai for their work on this important project, noting the evolution of workforce vendor diversity in the last decade. He emphasized the Commission's long-standing commitment to this issue and concluded by stating the need to keep moving forward. Commissioner Hill agreed and added that the report was well done. General Counsel Grossman reported that the Audit team would prepare regulatory language based on the Commission's feedback and bring it back for review in the near future.

10. [Commissioner Updates](#) (1:30:06)

Commissioner O'Brien reported that she had spoken to Director Vander Linden about a Chamber of Commerce event regarding changes to data analytics and tracking initiatives utilized by marketing firms. She stated that the information presented was incredibly helpful to the work done at the Commission and will be very helpful into Director Vander Linden's research into AI and machine learning to flag potential gaming disorders.

11. [Other Business](#) (1:31:51)

There was no other business presented at today's meeting.

Commissioner O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Interim Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Meeting Adjourned.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#) dated September 25, 2024



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: March 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 826 5143

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. The 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 548th Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission") at 10:00 a.m. Roll call attendance was conducted, and all five Commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Meeting Minutes](#) (00:44)

- a. January 6, 2023
- b. January 18, 2023
- c. March 28, 2024
- d. February 6, 2025

Commissioner Skinner noted that there were two meetings on January 18, 2023, and the set currently before the commissioners is for the 2:00 PM meeting that day. She noted that the Commission previously approved the minutes for the earlier meeting that day.

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the minutes for the January 6, 2023, January 18, 2023 at 2:00 PM, and March 28, 2024 meetings that are included in the

Commissioners' Packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or any other non-material matters. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Abstain.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed, 4-0 with one abstention.

Commissioner Skinner further moved to approve the minutes for the February 6, 2025 meeting that are included in the Commissioners' Packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or any other non-material matters.

Commissioner O'Brien clarified a comment she made during the February 6, 2025 meeting and asked for that change to be made before seconding 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.

3. [Administrative Update](#) (03:29)

Executive Director Dean Serpa provided two program updates related to Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

The first update Executive Director Serpa provided was regarding the "Problem Gambling Screening Day" on March 11, 2025 in which interested patrons could visit the GameSense information centers at the casinos for screenings with GameSense advisors. He mentioned that the Encore Boston Harbor GameSense team was going to be joined by staff from Casa Esperanza, which is a mental health recovery service provider contracted by the Department of Public Health, and that individuals who complete a screening would receive a special ceramic coffee mug. Executive Director Serpa also noted that sports wagering patrons could access remote screenings with a GameSense advisor by live chat.

The second update provided was regarding a training session for interested Commission staff on March 19, 2025 focused on helping them better understand and address gambling harm. Executive Director Serpa noted that the session will include segments by Director of Research and Responsible Gaming Mark Vander Linden and Director of Player Health for the Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health, Amy Gabrila.

4. [Racing Division](#) (6:56)

a. [Plainridge Park Casino Request for Capital Improvement Fund Consideration \(test barn renovations\)](#) (7:15)

Financial Analyst Chad Bourque introduced a request for consideration by Plainridge Park Casino for funds in the amount of \$16,250 to cover the paving of the state test barn. He noted that he reviewed the submission and supporting documents, considers the request in good order, and recommends the Commission approve the request.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the Harness Horse Capital Improvement Trust Fund request for an additional \$16,250 in accordance with M.G.L. c. 128A, §5(g) for funding for renovations of the test barn, as included in the Commissioners' packet and discussed here today. Commissioner O'Brien seconded.

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.

Commissioner Hill asked about track safety and requested a snapshot from Director of Racing at Plainridge Park Casino, Steve O'Toole, about how safe the track is for training this time of year. Director O'Toole explained that they started blading the snow and ice off the track three weeks ago and added salt. He noted that all reports are good and that the agreement with the horsemen is that they wouldn't open until the racetrack was deemed safe.

b. [Report on 2023 unpaid winnings and possible subsequent authorization for CFAO to pay out funds approved by the Commission](#) (12:52)

- i. Plainridge Racecourse
- ii. Suffolk Downs
- iii. Wonderland Park
- iv. Raynham Park

Director of the Racing Division Dr. Alexandra Lightbown introduced the topic of unclaimed winnings from 2023 and explained that Financial Analyst Bourque met with each of the racing meeting licensees to discuss their unclaimed winning amounts (Plainridge Racecourse - \$119,889.781; Sterling Suffolk Racecourse - \$114,379.51; Raynham/Taunton/Massasoit Greyhound Association - \$105,723.77; no unclaimed winnings for Wonderland Greyhound Park). Dr. Lightbown stated that the Racing Division is requesting approval from the Commission for the Finance Division to distribute the amounts to the appropriate licensees or Fund once funds have been submitted by the licensees and cleared the Commission's bank

accounts.

Commissioner Brodeur asked where the funds are kept in the interim and whether they are kept specifically in an interest-bearing account. Financial Analyst Bourque explained that the funds are kept with the racetracks. Director O'Toole confirmed that the funds are handled collectively as they transition business from day-to-day and recorded in the Tote system. He further explained that what usually goes uncashed are refunds and that really comes to fruition through simulcasting.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission authorize the Finance Division to distribute funds from unclaimed tickets from Plainridge Racecourse in the amount of \$119,889.78 to the Plainridge Racecourse purse account and from the Sterling Suffolk Racecourse in the amount of \$114,379.51 to the Sterling Suffolk Racecourse purse account and from Raynham/Taunton/Massasoit Greyhound Association in the amount of \$105,723.77 to the Racing Stabilization Fund. Commissioner Brodeur seconded.

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. [Discussion regarding collective bargaining of the SEIU Local 888 Agreement](#) (20:06)

a. Executive Session

Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: "The Commission anticipates that it will meet in executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining of the SEIU Local 888 Agreement, as discussion at an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Commission."

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons stated by the Chair. 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.

Transcriber's note: The Commission entered executive session and reconvened the public session of the Commission meeting at [1:15:22](#).

6. [Investigations and Enforcement Bureau](#) (1:15:36)

- a. [Briefing on noncompliance related to Category 3 Sports Wagering American Wagering, Inc. d/b/a Caesars Sportsbook, and discussion regarding next steps. Alleged noncompliance relates to wagers on an unauthorized event in violation of G.L. c. 23N § 3, 205 CMR 247.01\(2\)\(i\), and the Massachusetts Sports Wagering Catalog](#) (1:30:58)

Chair Maynard confirmed with Director of the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau, Caitlin Monahan, at [1:15:41](#) that she is okay with starting with item 6(b) before going back to item 6(a).

Following the executive session, the Commission returned to this agenda at [1:30:57](#).

Enforcement Counsel Zachary Mercer introduced the alleged non-compliance incident involving Category 3 Sports Wagering licensee, American Wagering Inc. d/b/a Caesars Sportsbook and which implicates M.G.L. c. 23N § 3, 205 CMR 247.01(2)(i), and the Massachusetts Sports Wagering Catalog. He explained that the operator offered an unapproved golf event for wagering, resulting in the placement of 15 wagers with a total stake of \$1,103.29. He noted that upon inquiry, Caesars explained that the unapproved market was made available due to a mistaken belief that the event was permitted under The Match Series. Counsel Mercer asked for the Commission's guidance on next steps with the options being to move the matter to an adjudicatory hearing, to refer the matter to the IEB pursuant to 205 CMR 232 or, under M.G.L. c. 23N, § 16, to issue a civil administrative penalty.

Chair Maynard responded that he is fine with referring the matter to the IEB given the dollar amount involved. Commissioner O'Brien agreed with Chair Maynard and asked what the event involved as compared to what's currently permitted. Counsel Mercer explained that it is a golf event where teams of two go head-to-head in a showdown instead of a tournament. Commissioner O'Brien also asked whether we have updated the Catalog, noting that there has been a seismic shift with golf and asked whether this is a part of the issue, too. Counsel Mercer confirmed this was not an approved event as it was not part of The Match Series. Commissioner O'Brien stated that it seems like there are two infractions (one being the approved event, and the second being the unapproved event in general). The other commissioners agreed with Chair Maynard as well.

- b. [Discussion of firearms security at MGM Springfield](#) (1:15:38)

- i. Executive Session

Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: "The Commission anticipates that it will meet in executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(4), G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7), G.L. c. 23K, § 21(a)(7), and 205 CMR 139.02 to discuss the use and deployment of security personnel, devices, or strategies with respect thereto, specifically with regard to firearm

safety at MGM Springfield and to discuss the response to the Commission’s internal control related directive submitted by MGM Springfield related to the same subject matter.”

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons 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. An executive session was entered.

Chair Maynard informed attendees at [1:17:00](#) that the Commission will return to the public meeting following this executive session.

Transcriber’s note: The Commission entered executive session. After conclusion of the executive session, the public session reconvened at [1:30:58](#) and agenda item #6(a) was reviewed. Roll call was taken, and all Commissioners were confirmed present.

7. [Sports Wagering Division](#) (1:35:46)

- a. [DraftKings request to use an alternate method of KYC identity authentication at the time of sports wagering account establishment pursuant to 205 CMR 248.04\(4\)](#) (1:36:02)

Chief of the Sports Wagering Division Carrie Torrisi stated that the Sports Wagering Division is presenting KYC processes for approval in accordance with 205 CMR 248.04(4) for DraftKings and Penn Sports Interactive. She explained that by regulation, sports wagering operators must utilize identity authentication questions that require a patron to provide information known only to the patron through security questions unless an alternate method of authentication is approved by the Commission. She summarized that following the Commission’s review, the Sports Wagering and Gaming Technical Compliance Divisions recommend that the Commission approve both DraftKings’ and Penn Sports Interactive’s alternate methods of KYC pursuant to 205 CMR 248.04(4).

- i. [Executive Session](#) (1:37:33)

Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: “The Commission anticipates that it will convene in an Executive Session in conjunction with its review of DraftKing’s methods of KYC in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G. L. c. 4, § 7(26)(n) to review certain materials in connection with the sports wagering operator’s processes and parameters during account creation related to customer verification and authentication, as these matters relate to cyber security within the Commonwealth, and the public discussion or disclosure of which is likely to jeopardize public safety or cyber security.”

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons 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. After conclusion of the executive session, the public session reconvened at [1:51:50](#).

Commissioner Skinner moved that pursuant to 205 CMR 284.04(4) the Commission approve the alternate methods of KYC identity authentication currently utilized by DraftKings. 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. [Penn Sports Interactive request to use an alternate method of KYC identity authentication at the time of sports wagering account establishment pursuant to 205 CMR 248.04\(4\)](#) (1:53:00)
 - i. [Executive Session](#) (1:53:24)

Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: "The Commission anticipates that it will convene in an Executive Session in conjunction with its review of Penn Sports Interactive's methods of KYC in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G. L. c. 4, § 7(26)(n) to review certain materials in connection with the sports wagering operator's processes and parameters during account creation related to customer verification and authentication, as these matters relate to cyber security within the Commonwealth, and the public discussion or disclosure of which is likely to jeopardize public safety or cyber security."

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons stated by the Chair. 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 informed attendees at [1:54:39](#) that the Commission will return to the public meeting following this executive session.

Transcriber's note: The Commission entered executive session. After conclusion of the executive session, the public session reconvened at [1:58:23](#).

Commissioner Hill moved that pursuant to 205 CMR 284.04(4) the Commission approve the alternate methods of KYC identity authentication currently utilized by Penn Sports Interactive. 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.

8. [Community Affairs Division](#) (1:59:36)

a. [FY26 Community Mitigation Fund Application Summary](#) (2:00:12)

Chief of the Community Affairs Division Joe Delaney updated the Commission that as of January 31, 2025, the Community Affairs Division received 35 applications for the FY 2026 round of Community Mitigation Fund grants. He did note that one application was received late, by approximately three hours, due to difficulties in transmitting the application. He explained that the total request for FY 2026 is \$24.4 million with approximately \$21.3 million from municipalities and \$3.1 million from regional agencies. He also noted that waiver requests totaled just over \$5 million. Chief Delaney also spoke about the future of the Community Mitigation Fund budget and explained that once there is a better understanding regarding the State budget proposals, the Commission may need to make some decisions to guide staff review of the applications.

Both Chair Maynard and Commissioner Skinner stated that we must review the applications in a fair manner and based upon the criteria set at the beginning of the application process.

Commissioner Skinner stated that the bigger concern is what to do next fiscal year. She asked whether a late application has ever been accepted and under what circumstances, noting a desire to ensure consistency moving forward. Chief Delaney stated he could not recall a previous instance where that happened. A discussion ensued about whether a waiver request is necessary in order to accept a late application. The consensus among the commissioners was to accept the

application. Commissioner O'Brien noted that the Commission should have a formal vote to accept the late application during the Commission's review of said application.

b. [MGM Springfield Quarterly Report and ILEV Update](#) (2:12:23)

Vice President and Legal Counsel of MGM Resorts International, Gus Kim, introduced the MGM team followed by Vice President of Finance at MGM Springfield, Arlen Carballo, and Director of Compliance at MGM Springfield, Daniel Miller, who presented their quarterly report for Q4 which included the following topics: gaming revenue and taxes, lottery sales, diversity and local spend, compliance, employment numbers, and workforce and hiring initiatives.

Commissioner O'Brien asked about MGM Springfield's efforts to increase the number of employees who identify as women. Vice President Carballo noted she will work with their talent and acquisition teams and circle back with the Commission on those efforts. President and Chief Operating Officer of MGM Springfield Louis Theros noted that the participation of women in Western MA is at 42% in the workforce and that they will get back to the Commission about what they have done specifically and on areas of improvement.

Director Miller resumed the presentation about community outreach and special events, including entertainment at the MassMutual Center and MGM Springfield.

Commissioner Brodeur asked Director Miller about whether there is an expectation that bartenders will still ID patrons once they're on the gaming floor and their ID is already checked at a security checkpoint. Director Miller explained that the rule of thumb is to check IDs for anyone who appears to be under the age of 30 years old and that employees should not assume the patron went through a security checkpoint. Commissioner Brodeur followed up with a question about whether there is discipline associated with these kinds of issues. Director Miller noted that there is disciplinary action in the affirmative if the interaction was significant enough.

Transcriber's note: Discussion under agenda item #9 and #10 occurred prior to agenda item #8. The commissioners resumed agenda item #8 at [2:33:10](#).

Chair Maynard stated that the Commission anticipated that it would meet in 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 the proposed multi-year capital expenditure plan described in 205 CMR 139.09, and any corresponding materials, submitted relative to MGM Springfield, as discussion of this matter in public would frustrate the purpose of the statute and associated legal authorities where the capital expenditure plan at issue is covered by a nondisclosure agreement between the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and Blue Tarp Redevelopment doing business as MGM Springfield. He noted that the public session of the Commission meeting would not reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons stated by the Chair. 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.

Transcriber's note: The Commission entered executive session and did not reconvene the public meeting.

9. [Commissioner Updates](#) (02:32:51)

Transcriber's note: Discussion under agenda items #9 and 10 occurred prior to agenda item #8.

No commissioner updates were raised prior to entering the executive session.

10. [Other Business](#) (02:33:05)

No other business was raised by the Commissioners prior to entering the executive session.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#) dated March 7, 2025
2. [Commissioners' Packet](#) from the March 11, 2025 meeting (posted on massgaming.com)



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

FROM: Ying Wang, Associate General Counsel

DATE: April 10, 2025

RE: 205 CMR 247.03: *Petition for a Sporting Event or Wager Category*

205 CMR 247.03: *Petition for a Sporting Event or Wager Category* has completed the promulgation process. This regulation amendment adds language regarding the Commission's ability to authorize or revoke its authorization of Sporting Events and Wager Categories in its sole discretion without a petition from the Sports Wagering Operator.

A public hearing was held on April 7, 2025. No comments pertaining to this regulation were provided and no edits have been made to the regulation since its presentation to the Commission on February 24, 2025.

We are seeking a vote to adopt the final version of the proposed regulation. The final version of the regulation and accompanying amended small business impact statement have been included in the Commissioners' Packet.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

205 CMR: MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION
205 CMR 247: UNIFORM STANDARDS OF SPORTS WAGERING

247.03: Petition for a Sporting Event or Wager Category

- (1) Any Operator may petition the Commission for approval of a new Sporting Event or Wager Category.
- (2) A proposed new Sporting Event or Wager Category may be a variation of an authorized Sporting Event or Wager Category, a composite of authorized Sporting Events or Wager Categories, or a new Sporting Event or Wager Category.
- (3) A petition for a proposed new Sporting Event or Wager Category shall be in writing and must include, at a minimum, the following information:
 - (a) The name of the Sporting Event or Wager Category;
 - (b) Whether the Sporting Event or Wager Category is a variation of an authorized Sporting Event or Wager Category, a composite of authorized Sporting Events or Wager Categories, or a new Sporting Event or Wager Category;
 - (c) The name of the Sports Wagering Operator(s) sponsoring the petition;
 - (d) A complete and detailed description of the Sporting Event or Wager Category for which approval is sought, including:
 1. A summary of the Sporting Event or Wager Category and the manner in which Sports Wagers would be placed and winning Sports Wagers would be determined;
 2. A draft of the proposed House Rules, including a description of any technology that would be utilized to offer Sports Wagering on the Sporting Event or Wager Category;
 3. Any rules or voting procedures related to the Sporting Event or Wager Category;
 4. Assurance that the Sporting Event or Wager Category meets the requirements of 205 CMR 247.03(4);
 5. Whether and to what extent the outcome of the Sporting Event or Wager Category is determined solely by chance;
 - (e) If the proposed Sporting Event or Wager Category is based on eSports activities, complete information about:

1. The proposed location(s) of the eSports event(s);
 2. The video game used for the eSports event, including, without limitation, the publisher of the video game;
 3. The eSports event operator, whether the eSports event operator is approved to host events by the video game publisher, and whether the eSports event operator has any affiliation with the video game publisher;
 4. The manner in which the eSports event is conducted by the eSports event operator, including, without limitation, eSports event rules and certification from a third party, such as an eSports event operator or the game publisher, that the eSports event meets the Commission's event integrity requirements;
- (g) The name of any Sports Governing Body or equivalent organization, as authorized by the Commission;
- (h) To the extent known by the petitioner(s), a description of policies and procedures regarding event integrity;
- (i) Any other information or material requested by the Bureau or Commission.
- (4) The Commission shall not grant the petition and authorize the Sporting Event or Wager Category unless the following minimum criteria are met:
- (a) The outcome can be verified;
 - (b) The Sporting Event generating the outcome is conducted in a manner that ensures sufficient integrity controls exist so the outcome can be trusted;
 - (c) The outcome is not likely to be affected by any Sports Wager placed; and
 - (d) The Sporting Event is conducted in conformity with all applicable laws.
- (5) The Commission will consider the request, all provided materials, and any relevant input from the Sports Governing Body, the conductor of the Sporting Event or related Players Associations, prior to authorizing a Sporting Event or Wager Category.
- (6) In its sole discretion, the Commission may require an appropriate test or experimental period, under such terms and conditions as the Commission may reasonably require, before granting final approval to a Sporting Event or Wager Category.

(7) In its sole discretion, the Commission may subject any technology that would be used to offer a Sporting Event or Wager Category to testing, investigation, and approval.

(8) The Commission may grant, deny, limit, restrict, or condition a request made pursuant to this rule, and may revoke, suspend, or modify any approval granted under this rule.

(9) Commission Action Without Request.

(a) Authorizing Sporting Event or Wager Category. In its sole discretion, the Commission may authorize Sporting Events and Wager Categories. In making that decision, the Commission may consider the criteria listed in 205 CMR 247.03(4) in its determination.

(b) Revoking Authorization of Sporting Event or Wager Category. In its sole discretion, the Commission may revoke its authorization of a Sporting Event or Wager Category with or without prior notification if it determines that the Sporting Event or Wager Category is contrary to the interests of the Commonwealth.

~~(9)~~ (10) The Commission shall notify all Sports Wagering Operators of any changes to authorized Sporting Events and Wager Categories.

~~(10)~~ (11) The Commission may prohibit the acceptance of any Sports Wagers, and may order the cancellation of Sports Wagers and require refunds on any Sporting Event or Wager Category, for which wagering would be contrary to the interests of the Commonwealth.

~~(11)~~ (12) If a Sports Wagering Operator offers an unauthorized or prohibited Sporting Event or Wager Category, the Sports Wagering Operator must immediately cancel and refund all Sports Wagers associated with the unauthorized or prohibited Sporting Event or Wager Category; provided, however, that where only a portion of a Sports Wager with multiple selections, such as a parlay, is unauthorized, the Sports Wagering Operator may cancel only that portion of the Sports Wager in accordance with the provisions of their House Rules if properly disclosed in accordance with 205 CMR 247.02(3)(o). The Sports Wagering Operator must notify the Commission promptly after cancelling any Sports Wager and again after refunding any Sports Wager.

~~(12)~~ (13) The Commission may use any information it considers appropriate, including, but not limited to, information received from a Sports Governing Body, in determining whether to authorize or prohibit wagering on a particular Sporting Event or Wager Category.



AMENDED SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (“Commission”) hereby files this amended Small Business Impact Statement in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 5 relative to the proposed adoption of **205 CMR 247.03: PETITION FOR A SPORTING EVENT OR WAGER CATEGORY**, for which a public hearing was held on April 7, 2025.

The adoption of 205 CMR 247.03 is part of the process of promulgating regulations governing the operation of Sports Wagering in the Commonwealth. This regulation is governed largely by G.L. c. 23N, §§4, 10, 11 and 13.

The adoption of 205 CMR 247.03 applies to sports wagering operators and the Commission. Accordingly, this regulation is unlikely to have an impact on small businesses.

In accordance with G.L. c.30A, §5, the Commission offers the following responses on whether any of the following methods of reducing the impact of the proposed regulation on small businesses would hinder achievement of the purpose of the proposed regulation:

1. Establishing less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses:

As a general matter, it is unlikely that any small businesses will be negatively impacted by this regulation as it relates sports wagering operators and the Commission. Accordingly, there are no less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses.

2. Establishing less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses:

There are no schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements within this regulation that would pertain to small businesses.

3. Consolidating or simplifying compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses:

This regulation does not impose any reporting requirements upon small businesses, therefore, the compliance and reporting requirements within this regulation have not been simplified.

4. Establishing performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the proposed regulation:



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

The proposed regulation does not establish performance standards for small businesses.

5. An analysis of whether the proposed regulation is likely to deter or encourage the formation of new businesses in the Commonwealth:

The Commission does not anticipate that the proposed regulation will either deter or encourage the formation of new businesses in the Commonwealth.

6. Minimizing adverse impact on small businesses by using alternative regulatory methods:

As it is currently drafted, it does not appear that the regulation creates any adverse impact on small businesses.

Massachusetts Gaming Commission

By:

Ying Wang

Ying Wang
Associate General Counsel

Dated: April 10, 2025



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

FROM: Melanie Foxx, Associate General Counsel
 Justin Stempeck, Deputy General Counsel

CC: Todd Grossman, General Counsel, Legal Division
 Dr. Alexandra Lightbown, Director of the Division of Racing

DATE: April 7, 2025

RE: Proposed Amendments to 205 CMR 3.00: Harness Horse Racing

Introduction

Enclosed for the Commission's consideration are the proposed drafts of 205 CMR 3.13(13); 205 CMR 3.15(3); 205 CMR 3.21(8); 205 CMR 3.23(12)(13); 205 CMR 3.32(3)(k); 205 CMR 3.33(6). These will come forward at the April 10, 2025, public meeting as the first presentation for discussion and review.

As the racing season opens on April 14, 2025, for Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment, LLC ("PGR"), these proposed amendments will be brought forward with a request for a vote for emergency enactment in the interests of the Commonwealth and its citizens, to ensure the health or safety of the public, participants or animals involved. The regulatory authority is set out under M.G.L. c. 128A, §§ 9 and 9B.

Regulations and Discussion

205 CMR 3.13: Licensee: duties and obligations

Section 3.13 outlines the licensees' responsibilities. Section 3.13(13) proposed language would require a warning light system of green, yellow, and red beacon style lights and sirens in the event of an accident and also assigns the duties of the judges to monitor, control and trigger the accident warning lights to indicate to the drivers to proceed with caution if yellow, cease racing if red, and an "all clear" green light to signal for warm ups and live racing to continue.

205 CMR 3.15: Owners

Section 3.15 sets out the duties, responsibilities as well as prohibitions of owners. The proposed modification to Section 3.15(3) would place a limit for an owner to employ no more than two trainers on the grounds of the Association without approval of the Board of Judges.

205 CMR 3.21: Trainers

Section 3.21 sets out the duties, responsibilities and prohibitions of a trainer. The proposed language in Section 3.21(8) would require that the trainer ensures that specific equipment is secured properly, namely the buckles on front hobble hangers and driving line buckles attached to the bit as well as side straps on number pads are required to be taped, for all races.

205 CMR 3.23: Claiming Races

Section 3.23 defines who may claim and the procedures, prohibitions, pricing and conditions of claims. The proposed language in Section 3.23(12) instructs when a claim should be voided if a horse dies on the track or suffers an injury which requires euthanasia of the horse while the horse is on the racetrack.

Section 3.23(13) instructs when a claim is voidable for a period of up to thirty (30) minutes after the race is made official at the discretion of the new owner for any horse vanned off track, sent to the detention barn and observed to be lame, or on the veterinarian's list for Epistaxis.

205 CMR 3.32: Testing

Section 3.32 sets out the procedures for testing horses, testing claimed horses, split samples, frozen samples and for testing suspicious substances. Section 3.32(3) governs split samples procedures. Proposed language in Section 3.32(3)(k) sets out the different scenarios that can occur when a sample is tested and when there is a request for a split sample. It further clarifies the standard presumption if the referee laboratory is unable to reach a valid testing conclusion or if the split sample was not of sufficient quantity for the referee laboratory to reach a valid testing conclusion.

205 CMR 3.33: Postmortem Examinations

Section 3.33 sets out when a postmortem examination is to be conducted and what types of samples may be collected and submitted for analysis. The proposed changes to section 205 CMR 3.33(6) would require a mortality review after the death of a horse, to be conducted by the Director of Racing. The Director of Racing's primary role would be to gather information surrounding the death of each racehorse and to ultimately arrive, if possible, at conclusions and recommendations to the appropriate entity or person.

3.13: Licensee: Duties, Obligations, etc.

- (1) No person younger than 16 years of age shall be employed in or about the track of any association, except as may be permitted by M.G.L. c. 149, § 60.
- (2) It shall be the duty of each and every licensee of the Commission and the officers, officials and employees of said licensee to observe and enforce 205 CMR 3.00. Every license to hold a harness horse racing meeting is granted upon the condition that licensee therein named shall accept, observe and enforce 205 CMR 3.00.
- (3) Each Association licensed by the Commission shall submit to the Commission a complete list of employees ten days after the first racing day. This must contain in addition to the names and addresses of employees, the position each one is to fill or the duties he or she is to perform. All additions named to or changes in the list of employees must be promptly reported to the Commission.
- (4) The Commission shall require each Association to obtain from every person employed by them a sworn statement, on a form prescribed by the Commission, setting forth information regarding citizenship, place or places of residence during the past two years and answer to any other questions the Commission may prescribe.
- (5) Each Association shall provide and equip a first aid room within its enclosure.
- (6) Each Association running a racing meeting shall keep a separate bank account to be known as the "Horsemen's Account" with at all times sufficient funds in such account to cover all monies due horsemen in regard to purses, stakes, rewards and deposits. Withdrawals from this account shall be only for such purposes and said account shall at all times be subject to audit by the Commission.
- (7) Members of the Commission and its representatives shall have the right to full and complete entry to any and all points of the grounds of the Associations licensed to conduct harness horse racing in Massachusetts.
- (8) Each Association conducting racing shall before publishing submit to the Commission, the conditions for all races it proposes to hold, together with the stake, purse or reward, all of which shall be subject to the approval of the Commission.
- (9) Each Association shall install at the finish line at their track, and shall adequately maintain, two photo finish cameras, to be approved by the Commission, to automatically photograph the finish of races. The official photographer shall furnish promptly to the Commission a print of every photo-finish.
- (10) Each Association shall install and maintain an adequate photo patrol system approved by the Commission.
- (11) Each Association shall provide that no person shall be admitted to the stable area unless he or she is wearing an identification badge issued to him or her by the Commission. Each person whose duties or occupation requires his or her presence in the stable area shall wear his or her identification badge in view at all times.
 - (a) Each Association shall provide that each person whose presence in the Paddock Area or Testing Area is permitted by 205 CMR 3.00 shall be required to wear his or her identification badge in plain view at all times while in the Paddock and Test Area.
 - (b) The Commission will hold the Association in strict accountability for full compliance with the provisions of 205 CMR 3.13(11).
- (12) No Association shall permit bets to be made on the grounds on any race run outside said grounds except for simulcasts authorized and approved by the Gaming Commission.

(13) Warning Light System: Every licensee authorized by the Commission to conduct harness horse racing within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be equipped with a three-light system of green, yellow and red beacon style lights and sirens for use in the event of an accident. It shall be the duty of the judges to monitor, control and trigger the accident-warning lights. From the time medical assistance is available, the judges will activate the green "all clear" light to signal no known problems on the racetrack.

(1) If at any point during the card the judges determine there is a condition on the

racetrack requiring the drivers to proceed with caution, the judges will activate the yellow "caution" warning light.

(2) The judges shall activate the red light and siren to declare a race a "no contest" due to safety issues. Upon the activation of the red light and siren, all drivers in a race will immediately cease racing and follow any instructions of the judges, starter, track announcer, or racing officials to get off the track as quickly and safely as they can. Drivers refusing to stop racing may be subject to a monetary penalty or suspension.

(3) When the red "no contest" light is turned off, the judges will activate the green "all clear" light as a signal for warm-ups and live racing to resume.

3.13: continued

~~(13)~~(14) No gambling device, other than permitted by law, shall be permitted on the grounds. Petty games of chance are prohibited.

~~(14)~~(15) During the term of disqualification of any participant of racing, it shall be the duty of the Association to see to it that the privileges of his or her admission badge are revoked, and that he or she is kept out of the grounds unless otherwise permitted to enter under certain conditions and at certain times as may be provided for elsewhere in 205 CMR 3.00.

~~(15)~~(16) Each Association shall furnish to the Commission the names and addresses of all persons ejected by the Association from its grounds, together with the offense or offenses alleged against them, and any other material information relating thereto.

~~(16)~~(17) Any person ejected from the grounds of an Association shall be denied admission to said grounds until written permission for his or her re-entering has been obtained from the licensee Association and written notification of such permission shall forthwith be filed with the Commission.

~~(17)~~(18) A person ejected from the grounds of an Association licensed by the Commission shall be refused admission to the grounds of all other licensed Associations in Massachusetts until he or she has been permitted to re-enter the track where he was originally ejected in accordance with the procedure provided for in 205 CMR 3.13(17).

~~(18)~~(19) Purse Money shall not be paid to the winners thereof earlier than 48 hours following their winning.

~~(19)~~(20) No percentage of winnings shall be deducted by an Association for another person, club, or body, unless at the request of the person to whom such winnings are payable and except that an Association may withhold from winnings any money due it.

~~(20)~~(21) Each Association shall provide within its grounds an office for the use and to be at the disposal of the Commission and all its officials.

~~(21)~~(22) The acceptance by an Association of so called "come back money" or other wager placed outside the enclosure of said Association is strictly prohibited. No Association shall aid or abet the acceptance of such wagers or make any special provision within or without the enclosure for the acceptance of such wagers or for the encouragement of such method of wagering. An Association shall not set up or permit the establishment of any agency within the enclosure for the receipt of wagers made outside the enclosure.

~~(22)~~(23) If the Pari-mutuel Manager is to be absent from the track for a complete racing program, the Association shall inform the Commission Accountant at the track at least ½ hour before post time of the first race of the name of the person who will perform the duties of the Pari-mutuel Manager during his or her absence.

~~(23)~~(24) Every employee of the Mutuel Department, who by nature of his or her employment comes in contact with patrons, shall be designated by name or number, that easy identification may be made by the public.

~~(24)~~(25) No minor shall be allowed to place or collect a wager and every employee of the Mutuel Department shall be so instructed by the Association.

3.14: Licenses, Registrations and Fees for Participants in Racing

(1) The following persons shall be required to take out a license from the Commission, and pay the current applicable annual fee: Driver, Trainer, Owner, Authorized Agent, Stable Employees, Veterinarian, Blacksmith, Vendors and Racing Officials.

(2) The fee shall accompany each application for license or registration. They expire December 31st of the year of issue, except stable employees whose license expire on March 31st.

3.15 : Owners

- (1) Each owner holding a beneficial interest of 20% or more in a horse must obtain a license from the Commission. If the owners are husband and wife and their total beneficial interest is 20% or more in a horse, then they must each obtain a license from the Commission.
- (2) An owner shall not enter or start a horse that:
 - (a) is not in serviceably sound racing condition;
 - (b) has been trachea tubed;
 - (c) has been nerved at or above the ankle;
 - (d) has been nerved or had cryosurgery performed on a nerve, except that horses that have had a neurectomy or cryosurgery performed on the posterior digital nerve below, and not at, the fetlock of one or more feet may be permitted to race;
 - (e) is blind or whose vision is seriously impaired in both eyes. A horse blind in one eye may start only if the other eye has normal vision.
 - (f) does not comply with M.G.L. c. 129, § 44 and 330 CMR 16.05: *Prevention and Suppression of Equine Infectious Anemia*.
- (3) If an owner changes trainers, he or she must notify the Racing Secretary and the Judges and in no instance shall an owner have or employ more than ~~one~~two trainers on the grounds of the Association without the approval of the Board of Judges.
- (4) No owner shall accept, directly or indirectly, any bribe, gift or gratuity in any form that might influence the result of any race, or tend to do so.
- (5) No owner shall move or permit to be moved any of his or her horses from the grounds of an Association without written permission of the Association.
- (6) The owner and/or trainer shall see to it that a report is made promptly to the Judges and/or the Official Veterinarian of any and all sickness of his or her horses that have been declared to race.
- (7) No stable may have in its employment in any capacity any employee under 16 years of age, except as may be permitted by the applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- (8) The owner thereof shall register the personnel of every stable and changes with the Association on whose track their horses are racing or stabled, and shall be available at all times to representatives of the Commission.

3.16 : Paddock Judge

- (1) It shall be the duty of the Paddock Judge to check all contestants for each and every race and to have all horses properly identified.
- (2) The Paddock Judge shall keep a record of all equipment carried by all horses in all races under the jurisdiction, permitting no change in equipment not authorized by the Judges.
- (3) The Paddock Judge shall bar all unauthorized persons from the Paddock Area.
- (4) The Paddock Judge shall report any irregularities to the Judges.

3.17 : Patrol Judges

The Patrol Judges shall for each race take their stations at a place designated by the Judges. They shall be subject to the orders of the Judges, and shall duly report to them all of their pertinent observations in each and every race and shall file reports on it in writing if so requested by the Judges.

3.18 : Racing Officials

- (1) Officials of a race meeting are as follows: Three Judges; Judge at the Start; Starter; Patrol Judges; Timer; Paddock Judge; Clerk of Course; Racing Secretary; Assistant Racing Secretary; Veterinarian; Mutuel Manager; Program Director; Placing Judges; Identifier; Marshall; and such other persons as the Commission may designate from time to time because of their importance in the actual conduct of racing.

3.21: Trainers

- (1) Each trainer must obtain a license from the Commission.
- (2) No trainer shall practice his or her profession, except under his or her own name.
- (3) The Judges may permit a trainer to act pending action on his or her applications.
- (4) A licensed trainer may represent the owner in the matter of entries and declarations.
- (5) A trainer shall have his or her horse in the paddock at the time appointed.
- (6) A trainer shall attend his or her horse in the paddock, unless he or she has obtained the permission of the Judges.
- (7) The trainer shall be responsible for and be the absolute insurer of the condition of the horses he or she enters, regardless of the acts of third parties.

(8) A trainer shall ensure that all buckles on front hobble hangers and driving line buckles attached to the bit as well as side straps on number pads shall be taped for all races.

3.21: continued

- (8) Each trainer shall register with the Racing Secretary every person in his or her employ.
- (9) A trainer shall not have in charge or under his or her supervision any horse owned, in whole or part by a disqualified person.
- (10) No trainer shall accept, directly or indirectly, any bribe, gift or gratuity in any form that might influence the result of any race or which would tend to do so.
- (11) No trainer shall move or permit to be moved any horse or horses in his or her care from the grounds of an Association without permission from the Association.
- (12) A trainer shall not enter or start a horse that:
 - (a) is not in serviceably sound racing condition;
 - (b) has been trachea tubed;
 - (c) has been nerved at or above the ankle;
 - (d) has been nerved or had cryosurgery performed on a nerve, except that horses that have had a neurectomy or cryosurgery performed on the posterior digital nerve below, and not at, the fetlock of one or more feet may be permitted to race;
 - (e) is blind or whose vision is seriously impaired in both eyes. A horse blind in one eye may start only if the other eye has normal vision.
 - (f) does not comply with M.G.L. c. 129, § 44 and 330 CMR 16.05: *Prevention and Suppression of Equine Infectious Anemia*.
- (13) The trainer and/or owner shall see to it that a report is made promptly to the Judges and/or the Official Veterinarian of any and all sickness of his or her horses that have been declared to race.
- (14) Trainers of said horses entered in the first and second races shall inspect the condition of their horse 1½ hours before post time of the first race of the day on which entered to race. If any horse is found, through accident or otherwise, to be unfit to race, the trainer shall report the fact to the Judges one hour before post time of the first race of the day.

(3.22: Veterinarians: Repealed)

3.23: Claiming Races

- (1) Who May Claim. An owner and/or lessee of a horse that has been declared and programmed to start in a purse race at that meeting. An authorized agent may claim for a qualified owner. Any member seeking to effect a false claim by inducing another to claim a horse for him or her will be subject to the penalties provided by the Judges.
- (2) Prohibitions.
 - (a) No person shall claim his or her own horse, nor shall he or she claim a horse trained or driven by him or her.
 - (b) No person shall claim more than one horse in a race.
 - (c) No qualified owner or his or her agent shall claim a horse for another person.
 - (d) No owner shall cause his or her horse to be claimed directly or indirectly for his or her own account.
 - (e) No person shall offer, or enter into an agreement, to claim or not to claim, or attempt to prevent another person from claiming any horse in a claiming race.
 - (f) No person shall enter a horse against which there is a mortgage, bill of sale, or lien of any kind, unless the written consent of the holder thereof shall be filed with the Clerk of the Course of the Association conducting such a claiming race.
 - (g) Where a horse drawn to start in a claiming race has been declared to start in a subsequent claiming race, a successful claimant, if any, of the horse in the first race shall have the option of scratching the horse from the subsequent race.
 - (h) Any mare which has been bred shall not be declared into a claiming race for at least 45 days following the last breeding of the mare, and thereafter such a mare may only be declared into a claiming race after a veterinarian has pronounced the mare not to be in foal. Any mare pronounced in foal shall not be declared into a claiming race.

3.23: continued

- (3) Claiming Procedure.
 - (a) Owner's Credit. The owner must have to his or her credit with the track giving the race an amount equivalent to the specified claiming price plus the requisite fees for transfer of registration.
 - (b) Owner's Consent. No declaration may be accepted without written permission of the owner if filed with the Racing Secretary at the time of declaration.
 - (c) On Program. The basic claiming price for which each horse is entered shall be printed on the program, but all claims shall be for the adjusted price after the prescribed allowances made for sex and/or age have been added to the basic price.
 - (d) Claim Box. All claims shall be in writing, sealed and deposited at least 15 minutes before the time originally scheduled for the race to begin, in a locked box provided for this purpose by the Clerk of Course. Once a claim has been filed it is irrevocable and at the risk of the claimant, unless otherwise provided for in 205 CMR 3.00.
 - (e) Opening of Claim Box. No official shall open said box or give any information on claims filed until after the race. Immediately after the race, the claim box shall be opened and the claim, if any, examined by the Judges.
 - (f) Multiple Claims on Same Horse. Should more than one claim be filed for the same horse, the owner shall be determined by lot by the Judges.
 - (g) Delivery of Claimed Horse. A horse claimed shall be delivered immediately by the original owner or his or her trainer to the successful claimant upon authorization of the Presiding Judge. The horse's halter must accompany the horse. Altering or removing the horse's shoes will be considered a violation of 205 CMR 3.00.
 - (h) Refusal to Deliver Claimed Horse. Any person who refuses to deliver a horse legally claimed out of a claiming race shall be suspended together with the horse until delivery is made.
 - (i) Vesting of Title to Claimed Horse. Every horse claimed shall race in all heats or dashes of the event in the interest and for the account of the owner who declared it in the event, but title to the claimed horse shall be vested in the successful claimant from the time the word "go" is given in the first heat or dash, and said successful claimant shall become the owner of the horse, whether it be alive or dead or sound or unsound, or injured during the race or after it, provided however that the final vesting of title to a claimed horse is subject to the conditions and provisions of the applicable USTA rules.
 - (j) Affidavit by Claimant. The Judges shall require any person making a claim for a horse to make affidavit that he is claiming said horse for his or her own account or as an authorized agent and not for any other person. Any person making such affidavit willfully and falsely shall be subject to punishment as hereinafter provided.
 - (k) Penalty for 30 Day. If a horse is claimed, no right, title or interest therein shall be sold or transferred except in a claiming race for a period of 30 days.
- (4) Claiming Price. Subject to the conditions of the current applicable USTA rules the track shall pay the claiming price to the owner at the time the registration certificate is delivered for presentation to the successful owner.
- (5) Claiming Conditions. Except for the lowest claiming price offered at each meeting, conditions and allowances in claiming races may be based only on age and sex. Whenever possible claiming races shall be written to separate horses five years old and up from young horses and to separate males from females. If sexes are mixed, mares shall be given a price allowance, provided, however, that there shall be no price allowance given to a spayed mare racing in a claiming race.
- (6) Minimum Price. No claiming race shall be offered permitting claims for less than the minimum purse offered at the time during the same racing week.
- (7) Determination of Claiming Price. Except as provided by the United States Trotting Association, no horse owner shall be prohibited from determining the price for which his or her horse shall be entered.

3.23: continued

(8) Fraudulent Claims.

(a) If the Judges determine that the declaration of any horse to a claiming race is fraudulent on the part of the declarer, they may void the claim and, at the option of the claimant, order the horse returned to the person declaring it.

(b) If the Judges determine that any claim of a horse is fraudulent on the part of the person making the claim they may void the claim and may, at the option of the person declaring it in, return the horse to the person declaring it.

(9) The current Registration Certificate of all horses entered in claiming races must be on file with the Racing Secretary together with a separate claiming authorization form signed by the registered owner or owners and indicating the minimum amount for which the horse may be entered to be claimed. To facilitate transfer of claimed horses the Presiding Judge may sign the transfer provided that he or she then sends the Registration Certificate and claiming authorization to the Registrar for transfer.

(10) Any person violating any of the provisions of 205 CMR 3.23, shall be fined, suspended, or expelled.

(11) Claiming. A person or two or more persons in a partnership or other acceptable form of joint ownership shall be eligible to claim a horse, without racing a horse at the race meeting in progress, by complying with the provisions of the following claiming rules:

(a) Such persons must first register as an Owner with the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and pass all security and financial precautions required by the Commission. Further, any such person must consent to a thorough background check by the State Police Unit attached to the Gaming Commission.

(b) Such persons must be representing their own interest only and may not have any undisclosed persons with any interests in the authorized claim.

(c) Such persons must, prior to any such claim, secure the services of a licensed Massachusetts standardbred horse trainer and such trainer must consent to being so engaged in writing to the Judges at the race meeting for which such claim is authorized. Such consent must be given by that trainer both at the time of authorization and on the authorization card submitted at the time of the claim. Any change in the consent of the trainer to be employed by the prospective owner must be reported to the Judges Promptly on the next racing day and a new trainer authorized before a claim can be made.

(d) No such person may claim a horse until all forms and security investigations are completed and approved.

(e) After all forms are approved, the Judges, at the race meetings of commercial race tracks only, will be allowed to issue a claiming authorization card to be submitted in the same envelope as the claim slip in order that the claim be a valid one.

(f) The Judges will keep on file the names of all such persons authorized to claim, the date in which such privilege is exercised in the making of a claim.

(g) Such persons will be granted the balance of the calendar year to exercise the claiming privileges. At the end of such time, if unexercised, a new authorization card must be issued by the Judges to allow the privilege to be exercised in the next calendar year.

(h) A claim must be made and owned in exactly the same name or names authorized by the Judges and cannot be separated if a partnership has been transferred or modified in any way, or such claim will be held invalid.

(i) Any horse claimed under the provisions of 205 CMR 3.23 must race exclusively in Massachusetts at the track where claimed for 60 days following the date of claim. If racing concludes at the track where the horse is claimed for a period in excess of 30 days and no other Massachusetts track offers comparable claiming or other races suitable for that horse, a release statement may be obtained from the Judges or in their absence the Gaming Commission, to allow said horse to race elsewhere prior to the end of the 60 day period.

(j) Only one horse may be claimed under the provisions of 205 CMR 3.23 except as provided in 205 CMR 3.23(11)(j). After a horse is claimed, all future eligibility shall mean a horse must be raced to make any additional claims. However, if for reasons of physical impairment, the claimed horse cannot be raced for a six month period and the owner is willing to indicate this in writing to the Judges along with supporting evidence from a veterinarian licensed to practice at that track, the Judges may at their discretion issue a second authorization to claim. No person shall be granted permission under any circumstances to claim more than a second horse without racing a horse and complying with eligibility at the race meet.

3.23 : continued

- (k) Persons who exercise the privilege of claiming under 205 CMR 3.23 as a member of a partnership or other form of multiple ownership thereby become horse owners and ineligible to exercise the privilege of 205 CMR 3.23 as individuals after that time.
- (l) Any owner(s) who have not raced in the existing meet because they no longer own racing stock due to losing a horse in a claiming race, may be eligible to claim under 205 CMR 3.23.
- (m) The Massachusetts Gaming Commission, or the Judges at the track for which such authorization is granted, may at their discretion, for the protection or general good of racing, revoke the claiming authorization granted under 205 CMR 3.23 at any time during the eligibility period.

(12) Voided Claim: A claim shall be voided if a horse is a starter and the horse:

- (a) Dies on the racetrack; or
- (b) Suffers an injury which requires the euthanasia of the horse, as determined by an Association Veterinarian, while the horse is on the racetrack.

(13) A claim is voidable at the sole discretion of the new owner, for a period of up to thirty (30) minutes after the race is made official, for any horse that:

- (a) Is vanned off the track after the race at the discretion of the Association Veterinarian; or
- (b) Is sent to the detention barn and observed to be lame by the State and/or Association Veterinarian; or
- (c) Is placed on the Veterinarian's List for Epistaxis.

3.24 : Practicing Veterinarians

- (1) Eligibility. An applicant for a license as practicing veterinarian shall be qualified and licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this jurisdiction and be otherwise qualified to be issued a license to participate in racing. An application for a practicing veterinarian license from the Commission must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's current license to practice veterinary medicine.
- (2) Responsibility.
 - (a) All practicing veterinarians administering drugs, medications or other substances shall be responsible for ensuring that the drugs, medications or other substances and the veterinary treatment of horses are administered in accordance with 205 CMR 3.00.
 - (b) All practicing veterinarians shall promptly notify the official veterinarian of any reportable disease and any unusual incidence of a communicable illness in any horse in his or her charge.
 - (c) All veterinarians shall file individual remittance certificates with individual blood samples when testing for equine infectious anemia. Upon receipt from an approved testing laboratory, the certificates shall be returned to the trainer whose responsibility it shall be to safeguard said certificate and surrender same to a new owner and/or trainer in cases of claims, sales or transfers. All veterinarians shall notify the State Veterinarian immediately upon receipt of a positive report.
- (3) Restrictions.
 - (a) A practicing veterinarian shall not wager on the outcome of any race if the practicing veterinarian has treated a horse participating in that race within the past 30 days.
 - (b) Veterinarians licensed by the Commission to practice their profession shall not be eligible to hold an owner, trainer, or driver license at tracks under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

3.25 : Official Veterinarian

General Authority. The official veterinarian shall:

- (a) be employed by the Commission;
- (b) be a graduate veterinarian and be licensed to practice in this jurisdiction;
- (c) recommend to the judges any horse deemed unsafe to be raced, or a horse that it would be inhumane to allow to race;
- (d) place horses on the Veterinarian's List, when necessary, and remove horses from the Veterinarian's List;
- (e) place horses on the Furosemide List and remove horses from the Furosemide List;

205 CMR: MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION

- (f) maintain a continuing health and racing soundness record of each horse given a racing soundness inspection;
- (g) have the authority to supervise and control the Test Barn;
- (h) supervise the taking of all specimens for testing according to procedures approved by the Commission;
- (i) provide proper safeguards in the handling of all laboratory specimens to prevent tampering, confusion or contamination;
- (j) have authority and jurisdiction over the racing veterinarian and the practicing licensed veterinarians on the association grounds for the purpose of 205 CMR 3.00;
- (k) report to the Commission the names of all horses humanely destroyed or which otherwise expire at the race meeting and the reasons therefore;

3.31: continued

- (f) If, prior to starting, a horse is determined to be unfit for competition, the official veterinarian and/or the racing veterinarian will recommend to the judges the horse be scratched.
 - (g) Horses scratched upon the recommendation of the official veterinarian and/or the racing veterinarian are to be placed on the Veterinarians' List.
- (2) Veterinarian's List.
- (a) The official veterinarian shall maintain the Veterinarian's List of all horses which are determined to be unfit to compete in a race due to illness, physical distress, unsoundness, infirmity or any other medical condition. Horses so listed are ineligible to enter to race in any jurisdiction until released by an official veterinarian or racing veterinarian.
 - (b) A horse may be removed from the Veterinarian's List when, in the opinion of the official veterinarian, the condition which caused the horse to be placed on the Veterinarian's List is resolved and the horse's status is returned to that of racing soundness.
 - (c) Horses working to be released from the Veterinarian's List are to be in compliance with 205 CMR 3.00 and are to be subjected to post-work biologic sample collection for laboratory confirmation or compliance. Violations may result in penalties consistent with 205 CMR 3.29(1).
 - (d) Horses may be released from the Veterinarian's List only by authorization of the official veterinarian.
 - (e) Horses having generated a "positive" post race test for an RCI Class I or II substance shall be required to generate a negative test at the expense of the current owner prior to being entered for the first start following the positive test.

3.32: Testing

- (1) Reporting to the Test Barn.
- (a) The official winning horse and any other horse ordered by the Commission and/or the judges shall be taken to the test barn to have blood and urine samples taken at the direction of the official veterinarian.
 - (b) Random or extra testing may be required by the judges or the Commission at any time on any horse on association grounds.
 - (c) Unless otherwise directed by the judges or the official veterinarian, a horse that is selected for testing must be taken directly to the test barn.
 - (d) A security guard shall monitor access to the test barn area during and immediately following each racing performance. All persons who wish to enter the test barn area must be a minimum of 16 years of age, be currently licensed by the Commission, display their Commission identification badge and have a legitimate reason for being in the test barn area.
 - (e) The owner, trainer or his or her groom or other authorized representative shall be present in the testing enclosure when a saliva, urine or other specimen is taken from his or her horse and shall remain until the sample tag is attached to the specimen container. Said tag shall be signed by the owner, trainer or their representative as witnesses to the taking of the specimen.
 - (f) Willful failure to be present at, or a refusal to allow, the taking of any such specimen or refusal to sign the specimen tag to the taking of a specimen, or any act or threat to impede or prevent or otherwise interfere therewith, shall subject the person or person guilty thereof to immediate suspension by the judges of the meeting and the matter shall be referred to the Commission for such further penalty as in its discretion it may determine.
- (2) Testing of Claimed Horses.
- (a) In the event a horse is claimed, and has been designated for a post race test, said claimed horse shall be brought to the State Testing Area by the previous owner, trainer, or agent, and said owner, trainer or agent shall remain with this horse in the testing area until a urine specimen or other sample or test is received from the horse, and said previous owner, trainer or agent shall sign all necessary documents.
 - (b) Should the analysis of a post race blood, urine or saliva specimen taken from a claimed horse result in a post race positive test, the claimant's trainer shall be promptly notified by the judges and the claimant shall have the option to void said claim. An election to void a claim shall be submitted in writing to the judges by the claimant or his or her trainer.

3.32: continued

(3) Split Samples.

(a) Split samples shall be secured and made available for further testing in accordance with the following procedures:

1. A split sample shall be secured in the test barn under the same manner as the portion of the specimen acquired for shipment to a primary laboratory until such time as specimens are packed and secured for shipment to the primary laboratory. Split samples shall then be transferred to a freezer at a secure location approved by the Commission.
2. A freezer for storage of split samples shall be opened only for depositing or removing split samples, for inventory, or for checking the condition of samples. A log shall be maintained that shall be used each time a split sample freezer is opened to specify each person in attendance, the purpose for opening the freezer, identification of split samples deposited or removed, the date and time the freezer was opened, and the time the freezer was closed.
3. Any evidence of a malfunction of a split sample freezer or samples that are not in a frozen condition during storage shall be documented in the log and immediately reported to the official veterinarian or a designated Commission representative.

(b) A trainer or owner of a horse, having been notified that a written report from a primary laboratory states that a prohibited substance has been found in a specimen obtained pursuant to 205 CMR 3.00, may request that a split sample corresponding to the portion of the specimen tested by the primary laboratory be sent to another [referee] laboratory approved by the Commission. The request must be made in writing and delivered to the judges not later than three business days after the trainer of the horse receives written notice of the findings of the primary laboratory. Any split sample so requested must be shipped within an additional 48 hours.

(c) The owner or trainer requesting testing of a split sample shall be responsible for the cost of shipping and testing. Failure of the owner, trainer or designee to appear at the time and place designated by the official veterinarian shall constitute a waiver of all rights to split sample testing. Prior to shipment, the Commission shall confirm the referee laboratory's willingness to simultaneously provide the testing requested, the laboratory's willingness to send results to both the person requesting the testing and the Commission, and arrangements for payment satisfactory to the referee laboratory.

(d) Prior to opening the split sample freezer, the Commission shall provide a split sample chain of custody verification form that shall provide a place for recording the following information and such other information as the official veterinarian may require. The form shall be fully completed during the retrieval, packaging, and shipment of the split sample. The split sample chain of custody form requirements are:

1. The date and time the sample is removed from the split sample freezer;
2. The sample number;
3. The address where the split sample is to be sent;
4. The name of the carrier and the address where the sample is to be taken for shipment;
5. Verification of retrieval of the split sample from the freezer;
6. Verification of each specific step of the split sample packaging in accordance with the recommended procedure;
7. Verification of the address of the referee laboratory on the split sample package;
8. Verification of the condition of the split sample package immediately prior to transfer of custody to the carrier; and
9. The date and time custody of the sample is transferred to the carrier.

(e) A split sample shall be removed from the split sample freezer by a Commission representative in the presence of a representative of the horsemen's association.

(f) The owner, trainer or designee shall pack the split sample for shipment in the presence of the representative of the Commission, in accordance with the packaging procedures recommended by the Commission. A form shall be signed by both the horsemen's representative and the Commission representative to confirm the packaging of the split sample. The exterior of the package shall be secured and identified with initialed tape, evidence tape or other means to prevent tampering with the package.

(g) The package containing the split sample shall be transported in a manner prescribed by the Commission to the location where custody is transferred to the delivery carrier charged with delivery of the package to the Commission-approved laboratory selected by the owner or trainer.

3.32 : continued

(h) The owner, trainer or designee and the Commission representative shall inspect the package containing the split sample immediately prior to transfer to the delivery carrier to verify that the package is intact and has not been tampered with.

(i) The split sample chain of custody verification form shall be completed and signed by the representatives of the Commission and the owner or trainer. A Commission representative shall keep the original and provide a copy for the owner or trainer.

(j) If the split sample does not arrive at the referee laboratory because of an act of God or other condition beyond the control of the Commission, the findings in the original sample shall serve as *prima facie* evidence of any medication violation.

(k) The Commission shall make all reasonable efforts to obtain a sufficient sample to split, however, it makes no guarantee as to the amount of sample that will be available for the split sample:

1. If the referee laboratory confirms substantially the primary laboratory findings, the original findings of the primary laboratory shall be considered conclusive.

2. If the split sample was not of sufficient quantity for the referee laboratory to conduct valid testing the original findings of the primary laboratory shall be considered conclusive.

3. If the referee laboratory is provided with the split sample and is unable to reach a valid testing conclusion for any other reason, the findings of the primary laboratory shall be considered conclusive.

(4) Frozen Samples. The Commission has the authority to direct the official laboratory to retain and preserve by freezing samples for future analysis. The fact that purse money has been distributed prior to the issuance of a laboratory report from the future analysis of a frozen sample shall not be deemed a finding that no drug substance prohibited by 205 CMR 3.00 has been administered.

(5) Suspicious Substances. The representatives of the Commission may take for analysis samples of any medicine or other materials suspected of containing improper medication or drugs which could affect the racing conditions of a horse in a race, which may be found in the stable area or elsewhere on the track or in the possession of any person connected with racing on such tracks.

3.33 : Postmortem Examinations

(1) The Commission may require a *postmortem* examination of any horse that dies or is euthanized on association grounds.

(2) The Commission may require a *postmortem* examination of any horse that dies or is euthanized at recognized training facilities within this jurisdiction.

(3) If a *postmortem* examination is to be conducted, the Commission shall take possession of the horse upon death for *postmortem* examination. All shoes shall be left on the horse.

(4) If a *postmortem* examination is to be conducted, the Commission or its representative shall collect blood, urine, bodily fluids, or other biologic specimens immediately, if possible before euthanization. The Commission may submit blood, urine, bodily fluids, or other biologic specimens collected during a *postmortem* examination for analysis. The presence of a prohibited substance in a specimen collected during the *postmortem* examination may constitute a violation.

(5) All licensees shall be required to comply with *postmortem* examination requirements as a condition of licensure. In proceeding with a *postmortem* examination, the Commission or its designee shall coordinate with the owner or the owner's authorized agent to determine and address any insurance requirements.

3.34 : Environmental Contaminants and Substances of Human Use

ARCI Endogenous, Dietary, or Environmental Substances Schedule.

205 CMR: MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION

- (1) Environmental contaminants are either endogenous to the horse or can arise from plants traditionally grazed or harvested as equine feed or are present in equine feed because of contamination during the cultivation, processing, treatment, storage or transportation phases.
- (2) Substances of human use and addiction may be found in the horse due to its close association with humans.
- (3) If the preponderance of evidence presented in the hearing shows that a positive test is the result of environmental contamination, including inadvertent exposure due to human drug use, or dietary intake, or is endogenous to the horse, those factors should be considered in mitigation of any disciplinary action taken against the affected trainer. Disciplinary action shall only be taken if test sample results exceed the regulatory thresholds in the most recent version of the

3.32 : continued

- (h) The owner, trainer or designee and the Commission representative shall inspect the package containing the split sample immediately prior to transfer to the delivery carrier to verify that the package is intact and has not been tampered with.
 - (i) The split sample chain of custody verification form shall be completed and signed by the representatives of the Commission and the owner or trainer. A Commission representative shall keep the original and provide a copy for the owner or trainer.
 - (j) If the split sample does not arrive at the referee laboratory because of an act of God or other condition beyond the control of the Commission, the findings in the original sample shall serve as *prima facie* evidence of any medication violation.
- (4) Frozen Samples. The Commission has the authority to direct the official laboratory to retain and preserve by freezing samples for future analysis. The fact that purse money has been distributed prior to the issuance of a laboratory report from the future analysis of a frozen sample shall not be deemed a finding that no drug substance prohibited by 205 CMR 3.00 has been administered.
- (5) Suspicious Substances. The representatives of the Commission may take for analysis samples of any medicine or other materials suspected of containing improper medication or drugs which could affect the racing conditions of a horse in a race, which may be found in the stable area or elsewhere on the track or in the possession of any person connected with racing on such tracks.

3.33 : Postmortem Examinations

- (1) The Commission may require a *postmortem* examination of any horse that dies or is euthanized on association grounds.
- (2) The Commission may require a *postmortem* examination of any horse that dies or is euthanized at recognized training facilities within this jurisdiction.
- (3) If a *postmortem* examination is to be conducted, the Commission shall take possession of the horse upon death for *postmortem* examination. All shoes shall be left on the horse.
- (4) If a *postmortem* examination is to be conducted, the Commission or its representative shall collect blood, urine, bodily fluids, or other biologic specimens immediately, if possible before euthanization. The Commission may submit blood, urine, bodily fluids, or other biologic specimens collected during a *postmortem* examination for analysis. The presence of a prohibited substance in a specimen collected during the *postmortem* examination may constitute a violation.
- (5) All licensees shall be required to comply with *postmortem* examination requirements as a condition of licensure. In proceeding with a *postmortem* examination, the Commission or its designee shall coordinate with the owner or the owner's authorized agent to determine and address any insurance requirements.

(6) Mortality Review: The Massachusetts Gaming Commission Director of Racing shall conduct a review for the purpose of gathering information surrounding the death of each racehorse and to have an open communication between the following listed individuals regarding issues which may have led to the incident and to ultimately arrive, if possible, at conclusions and recommendations to the appropriate entity or person. The Director of Racing shall consult the following:

- 1. the racetrack's Director of Racing or a designee;
- 2. the Association Judge and a Massachusetts Gaming Commission Judge;
- 3. the Chief Commission Veterinarian or a designee;
- 4. the on-track Association Veterinarian;
- 5. the trainer of the deceased horse;
- 6. the driver of the deceased horse;
- 7. the attending veterinarian;
- 8. the track superintendent;
- 9. the horseperson's representative; and
- 10. any other person the Director of Racing determines is necessary to adequately examine the death.

3.34 : Environmental Contaminants and Substances of Human Use

- (1) Environmental contaminants are either endogenous to the horse or can arise from plants traditionally grazed or harvested as equine feed or are present in equine feed because of contamination during the cultivation, processing, treatment, storage or transportation phases.
- (2) Substances of human use and addiction may be found in the horse due to its close association with humans.
- (3) If the preponderance of evidence presented in the hearing shows that a positive test is the result of environmental contamination, including inadvertent exposure due to human drug use, or dietary intake, or is endogenous to the horse, those factors should be considered in mitigation of any disciplinary action taken against the affected trainer. Disciplinary action shall only be taken if test sample results exceed the regulatory thresholds in the most recent version of the ARCI Endogenous, Dietary, or Environmental Substances Schedule.

205 CMR: MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION

3.34 : continued

(4) The identification and adoption of these uniform thresholds for certain substances shall not preclude an individual jurisdiction from maintaining thresholds for substances not on this list which predate the adoption of 205 CMR 3.34 in such jurisdiction.

3.35 : Adoption of United States Trotting Association Rules and Regulations

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission adopts the United States Trotting Association (USTA) Rules and Regulations as amended; and supplements those rules and regulations with 205 CMR 3.00.

In any situation where a conflict exists between the United States Trotting Association Rules and 205 CMR 3.00, 205 CMR 3.00 will govern. In any instance where a situation is not covered by the USTA Rules, 205 CMR 3.00 will govern and vice versa. The assessment of fines and suspensions shall be in the discretion of the Judges and the Gaming Commission.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

205 CMR 3.00: M.G.L. c. 128A, § 9.



Legal Division

SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (“Commission”) hereby files this Small Business Impact Statement in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §2 relative to the proposed amendments to **205 CMR 3.13(13): Licensee: duties and obligations, 205 CMR 3.15(3): Owners, 205 CMR 3.21(8): Trainers, 205 CMR 3.23(12)(13): Claiming Races, 205 CMR 3.32(3)(k): Testing and 205 CMR 3.33(6): Postmortem Examinations**, notice of which was filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. These amendments were developed as part of the process of promulgating regulations governing harness horse racing in the Commonwealth. This regulation is authorized by G.L. c. 128A, §§ 9 and 9B.

These amendments apply directly to harness horse licensees conducting or participating in racing in the Commonwealth. Accordingly, these proposed regulations are not likely to have a negative impact on small businesses. In accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 2, the Commission offers the following responses:

1. Estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the proposed regulation:

To the extent that horsemen and barns are small businesses, they may be impacted by these regulations. It is difficult to estimate with accuracy the potential number of small businesses that may be impacted.

2. State the projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs required for compliance with the proposed regulation:

Projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs are unlikely to change in any material way for compliance with the proposed amendments.

3. State the appropriateness of performance standards versus design standards:

Some of the proposed regulations are design standards and some are performance standards. The design standards are important as they encourage uniformity, while the performance standards provide further clarification regarding the responsibilities and prohibitions of anyone licensed by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to conduct or participate in Harness Horse Racing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

4. Identify regulations of the promulgating agency, or of another agency or department of the commonwealth, which may duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation:

There are no conflicting regulations in 205 CMR, and the Commission is unaware of any conflicting or duplicating regulations of any other agency or department of the Commonwealth.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

5. State whether the proposed regulation is likely to deter or encourage the formation of new businesses in the commonwealth:

This amendment will most likely not affect small businesses in an administrative capacity and is unlikely to deter or encourage the formation of new businesses in the Commonwealth at this time.

Massachusetts Gaming Commission
By:

/s/ Melanie D. Foxx
Melanie D. Foxx
Associate General Counsel

Dated: April 10, 2025



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

101 Federal Street, 12th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 | TEL 617.979.8400 | FAX 617.725.0258 | www.massgaming.com

Local Enterprise Assistance Fund

Update to The Massachusetts Gaming Commission

March 27, 2025



Agenda

- Brief overview of LEAF and Elevate Small Business programs
- LEAF Procurement Initiatives
 - Supporting MassGaming diverse procurement initiatives
 - Vendor Universe
 - Vendor Search Projects
 - Vendor Data Platform – upliftprocure.org
 - Supply Chain Finance: PO and Contract Financing



Local Enterprise Assistance Fund

- Immigrant-led Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)
- Founded in 1982 to provide funding to the cooperative economy.
- Since 2016, has provided financing and advisory services to underserved businesses in Massachusetts to preserve and grow jobs in low-income areas.



Local Enterprise Assistance Fund – Impact Areas



Local Enterprise Assistance Fund – Program Areas



Economic Inclusion

- Underserved small businesses
- Worker-owned cooperatives



Access to Healthy Food

- Food Cooperatives
- Food Retail in Food Deserts

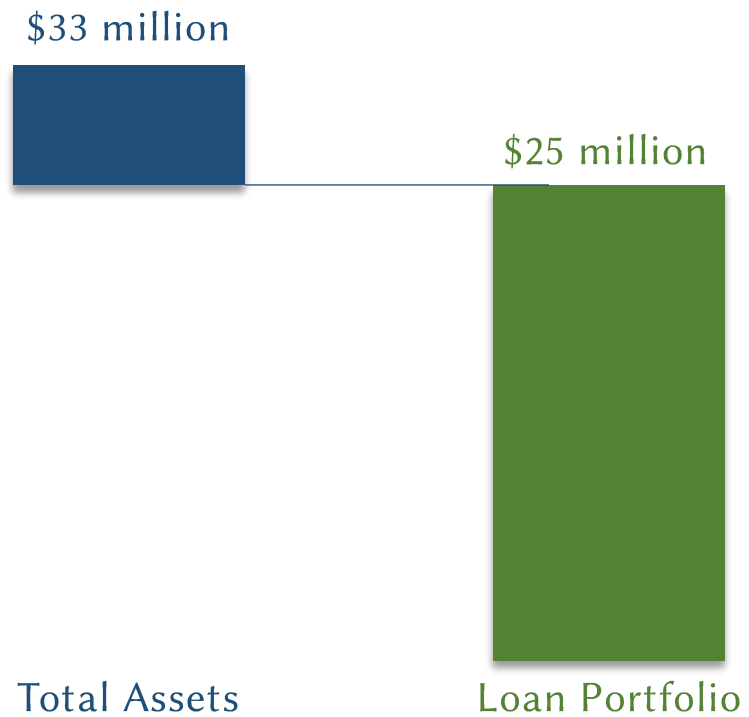


Access to Affordable Housing

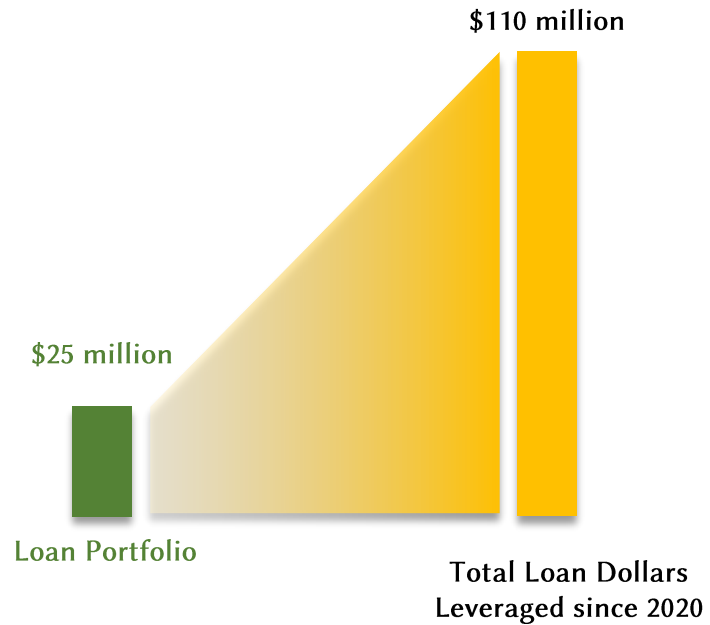
- Affordable Housing Cooperatives
- Community Land Trusts



Local Enterprise Assistance Fund



Local Enterprise Assistance Fund



A trusted partner





Elevate Small Business



Elevate Small Business

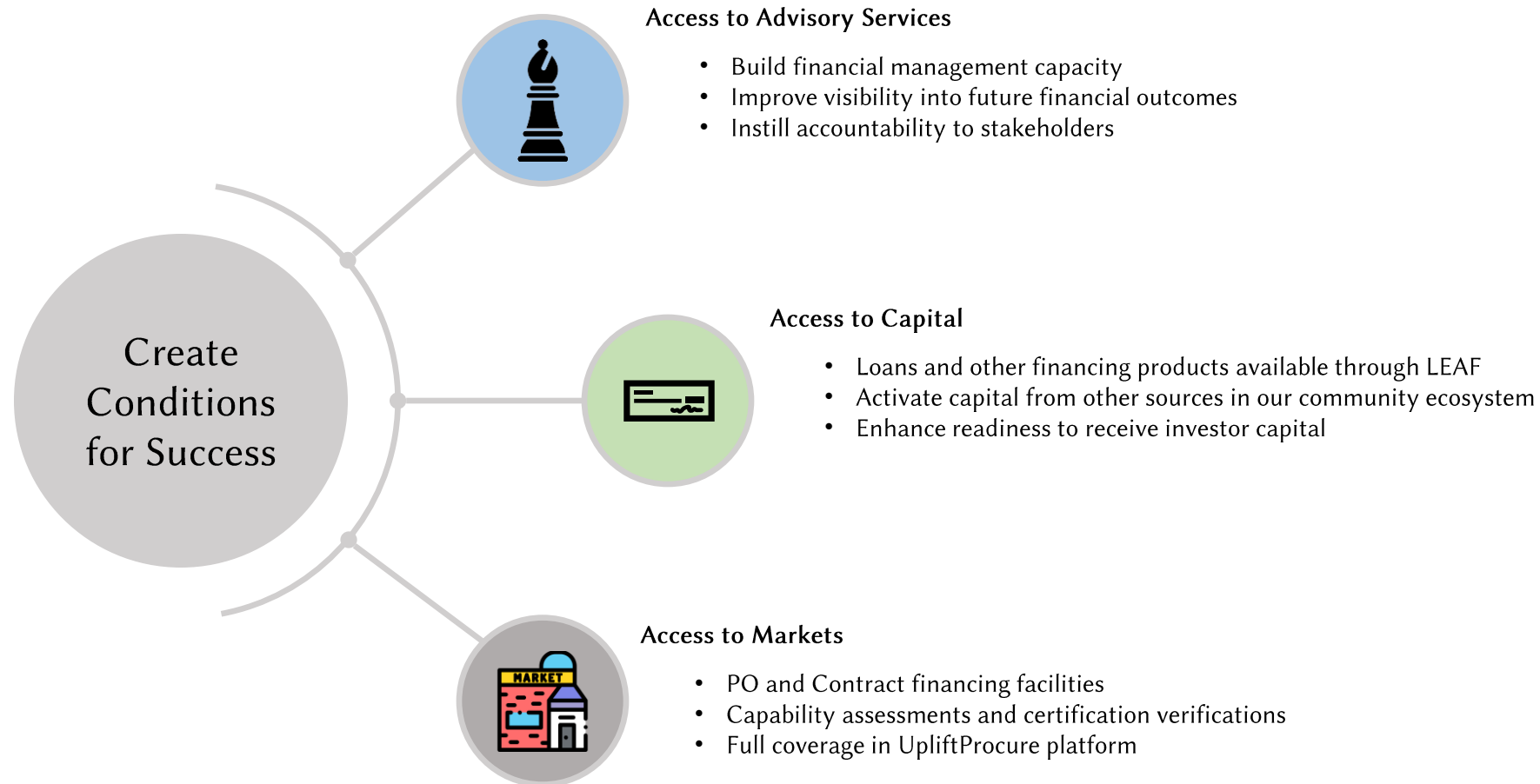
Improve the **financial health** of underserved businesses in our communities,



... as a means to improve the **lives of households and individuals** in our communities.



Elevate Small Business



Serving Our Communities

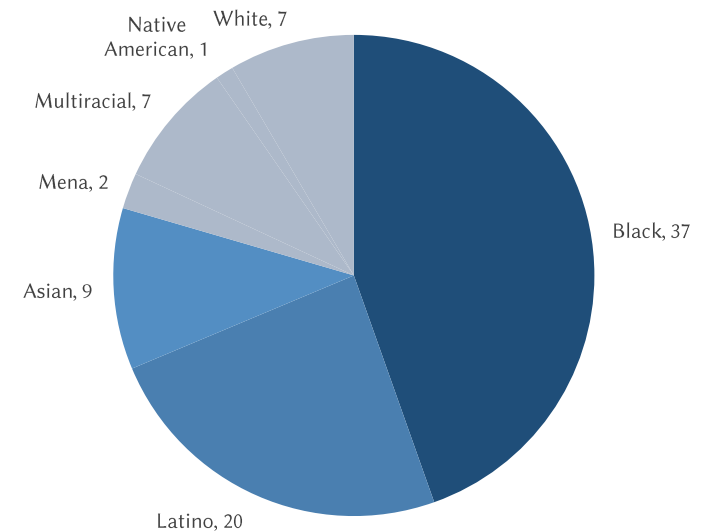
Last 12 months Service Data



83 unique businesses received 1-on-1 Technical Assistance



691 attendees to our workshops, the vast majority women, minority, and low income



LEAF Procurement Initiatives



Partnership with MassGaming

- Assisted local DBEs since the pandemic, providing financial management technical assistance and capital
- Participated in the Quarterly Advisory Team meetings convened by MassGaming at various casinos
 - Local vendors presented their products and services
 - Majority received orders and contracts
- Successfully assisted MassGaming diverse procurement search
- Developed a state-of-the-art online platform for buyers to safely and privately identify vendors suitable for their needs



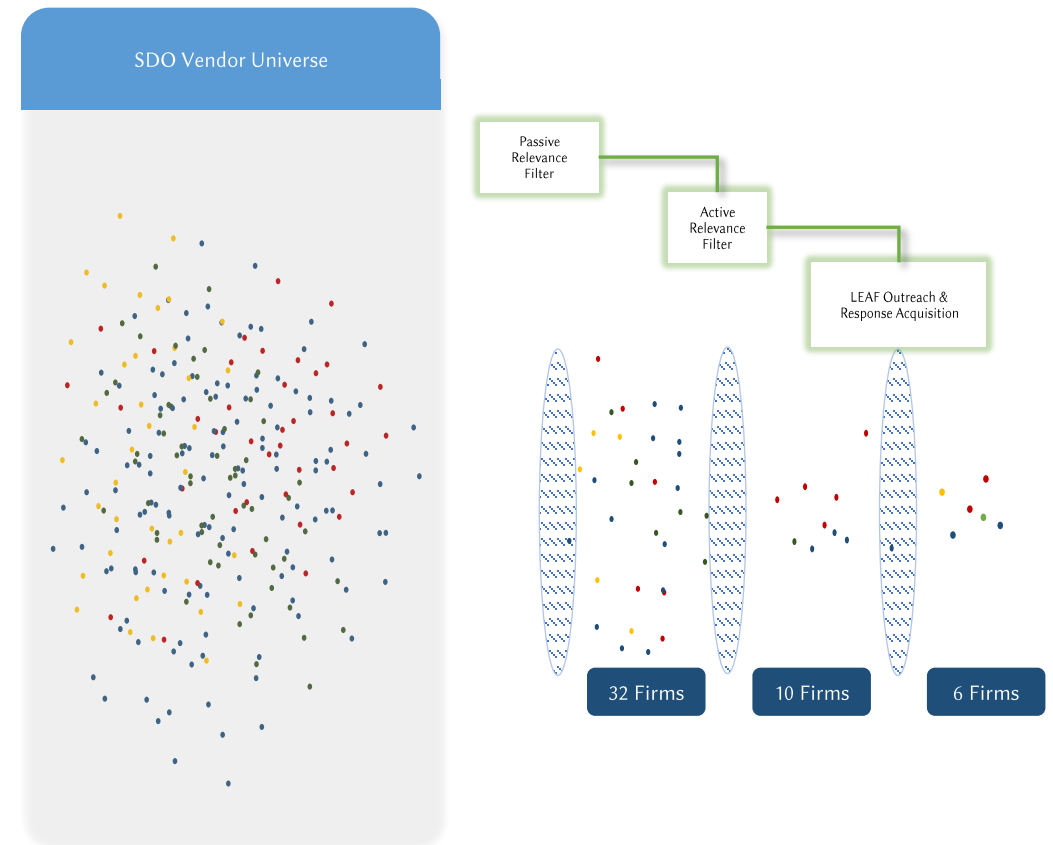
Partnership with MassGaming

- Assisted local DBEs since the pandemic, providing financial management technical assistance and capital
- Participated in the Quarterly Advisory Team meetings convened by MassGaming at various casinos
 - Local vendors presented their products and services
 - Majority received orders and contracts
- Successfully assisted MassGaming diverse procurement search
- Developed a state-of-the-art online platform for buyers to safely and privately identify vendors suitable for their needs



Partnership with MassGaming

- Assisted local DBEs since the pandemic, providing financial management technical assistance and capital
- Participated in the Quarterly Advisory Team meetings convened by MassGaming at various casinos
 - Local vendors presented their products and services
 - Majority received orders and contracts
- Successfully assisted MassGaming diverse procurement search
- Developed a state-of-the-art online platform for buyers to safely and privately identify vendors suitable for their needs

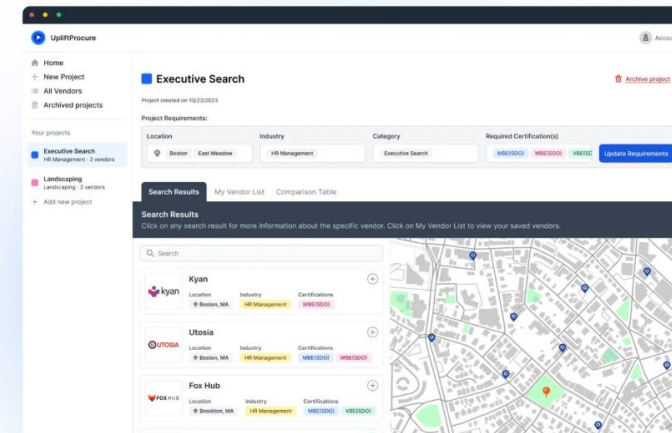


Partnership with MassGaming

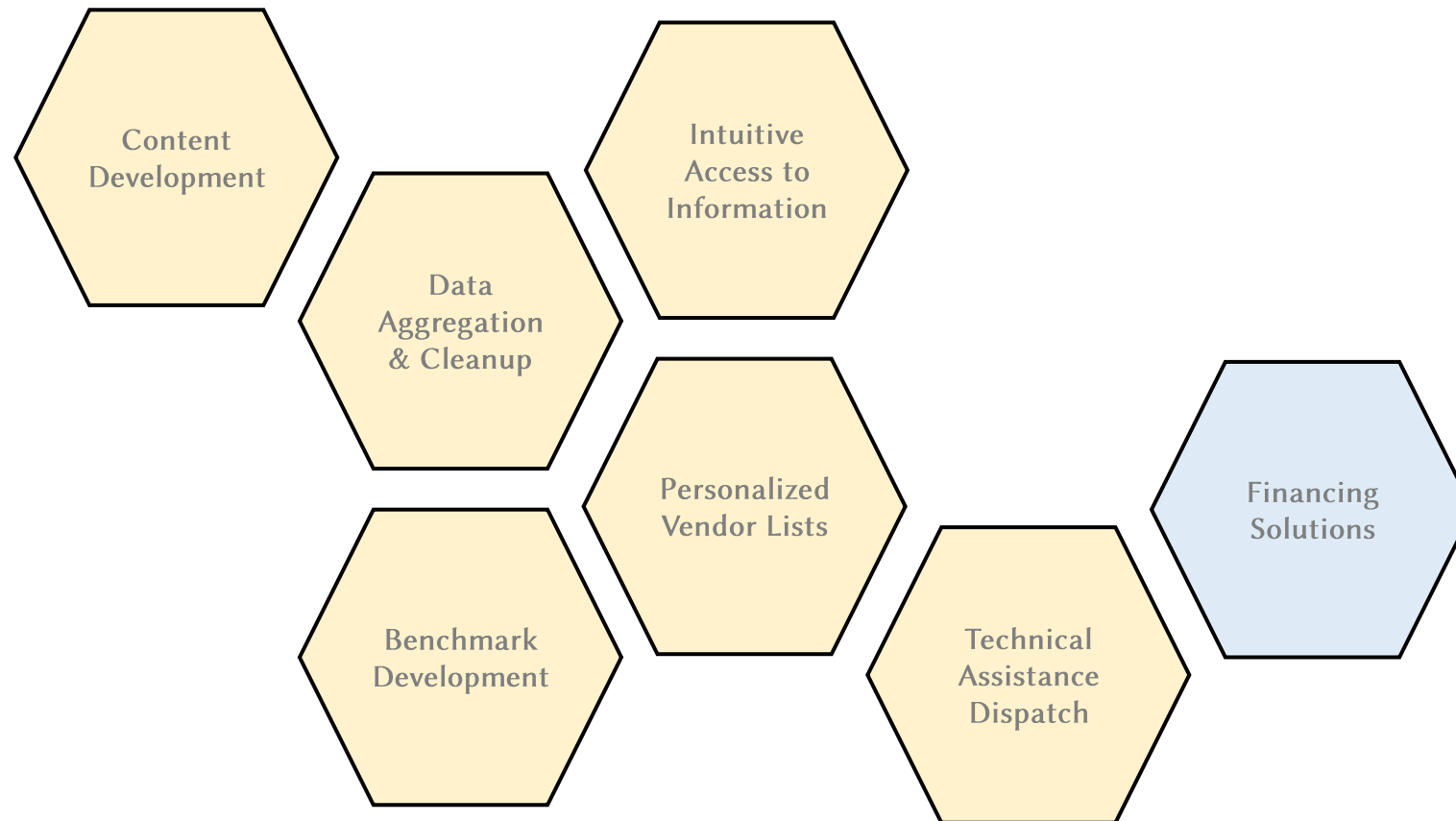
- Assisted local DBEs since the pandemic, providing financial management technical assistance and capital
- Participated in the Quarterly Advisory Team meetings convened by MassGaming at various casinos
 - Local vendors presented their products and services
 - Majority received orders and contracts
- Successfully assisted MassGaming diverse procurement search
- Developed a state-of-the-art online platform for buyers to securely and privately identify vendors suitable for their needs

Connecting buyers with local underrepresented businesses

Uplift Procure is a platform that enables underrepresented businesses to thrive in the local economy by leveraging institutional spending and creating sustainable business relationships with partner institutions.

[Learn More](#)[Get Started](#)

From the 2022 Update - Concept Solution: Mix of High-Touch and Low Touch



From the 2022 Update: Pilot Portal - UpliftProcure (upliftprocure.org)

HOME

Our Vendors

Contact Us

Select MBE status ▾

Select WBE status ▾

Select VBE status ▾

Input search city or town ▾

Search by keyword

Enter search keyword

Sort by:

☐ Category
 ☐ Commodity
 ☐ Business Name
 ☐ City or Town

☐ Show only companies with Capabilities Statements

Clear all filters

☒ Event Services
 ☒ F&B Food
 ☒ General Operations
 ☒ Hotel Operations
 ☒ Maintenance Materials
 ☒ Maintenance Services
 ☒ Marketing
 ☒ Transportation

Selected Companies

Add selected companies to my portfolio

Go to my portfolio

109 out of 109 companies displayed.

< 1 2 3 4 5 >

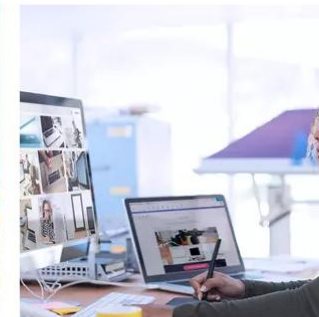
CATEGORIES	PRODUCTS & SERVICES	COMPANY NAME	CITY / TOWN	MBE	WBE	VBE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Event Services	Audio Visual Equip. & Services (Supplemental)	Agora Cultural Architects	Boston	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Capabilities Statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Event Services	Audio Visual Equip. & Services (Supplemental)	Intercultural Productions, LLC	Marblehead	Yes	No	Unknown	Capabilities Statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Event Services	Audio Visual Equip. & Services (Supplemental)	Spectrum Broadcasting Corporation	Boston	Yes	No	Unknown	Capabilities Statement



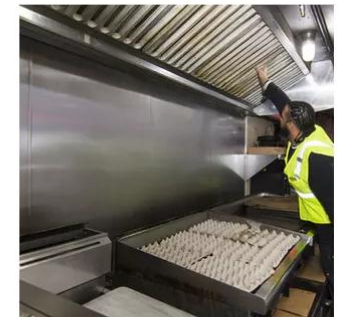
UP (Uplifting local Procurement) is a service administered by Elevate Small Business, the technical assistance team of the Local Enterprise Assistance Fund, to enable local minority, women, and veteran owned businesses to thrive in the local economy by accessing institutional contracts from partner anchor institutions.



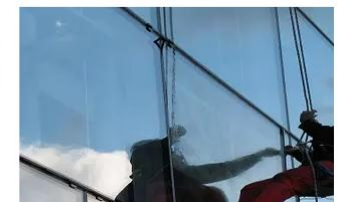
Transportation



Marketing



Maintenance Services



Upgraded Platform – Improved Digital Experience

✓ Platform technology partners

- Upgraded database systems
- Reworked vendor search flow
- Streamlined vendor views and capacity displays
- Enhanced user experience and information security

✓ Deep industry-specific capability information

- More accurate assessment of capability
- RFP-level business and operations detail
- Access to references and reviews



Certifications (Certifying Agency)

WBE (Mass SDO)



Certified date: 12/6/2001

Renewal date: 12/6/2023

Instant Financing Ready



Financed by Elevate



7 saved vendors

drinks
any industry
1 saved vendor

BCH 1
any industry
5 saved vendors

testing data
Construction
0 saved vendors

cons
any industry
0 saved vendors

Construction
Construction
0 saved vendors

chocolate 1
any industry
0 saved vendors

test nov 11
Food & Beverage
0 saved vendors

SBA Exec Search
any industry
6 saved vendors

chocolate
any industry
0 saved vendors

example
searchthursday
any industry
5 saved vendors

fencing 1
any industry
0 saved vendors

tradespersons
any industry
0 saved vendors

test october 2024
Landscape Services
0 saved vendors

Karleen test 1
any industry
9 saved vendors

electricians
any industry
0 saved vendors

Exec Srch 1
any industry
11 saved vendors

mgc q1 search test
Landscape Services
0 saved vendors

JMPC test
Landscape Services
2 saved vendors

Nick HR
any industry
6 saved vendors

Dan test 1
any industry
7 saved vendors

archi
any industry
0 saved vendors

Search Results

My Vendor List (4)

Comparison Table

Search Results

Click on any search result for more information about the specific vendor. Click on My Vendor List to view your saved vendors.

A Yard and A Half Landscaping Cooperative, Inc.



Location

Waltham, MA

Industry

Landscape Services

Professional Services

Certifications

--

CMJ Paving & Landscaping, Inc.



Location

Springfield, MA

Industry

Snow Removal

Landscape Services

Certifications

DBE (UCP - MassDOT)

Casablanca Services, Inc.



Location

Framingham, MA

Industry

Snow Removal

Landscape Services

Certifications

MBE (City of Boston)

Chase Landscape, Inc.



Location

South Dennis, MA

Industry

Landscape Services

Certifications

WBE (Mass SDO) DBE (UCP - MassDOT)

WBE (City of Boston) SBE (City of Boston)

Fillion's Landscaping, Inc.



Location

Granby, MA

Industry

Landscape Services

Professional Services

Certifications

WBE (Mass SDO) DBE (UCP - MassDOT)

Friends of Gardens



Location

Revere, MA

Industry

Landscape Services

Certifications

MBE (Mass SDO)

Horticultural DNA, Inc.



Location

Hyannis, MA

Industry

Snow Removal

Landscape Services

Certifications

DBE (UCP - MassDOT)

Professional Services

Hurst Landscaping and Site Services, Inc.



Location

Mattapan, MA

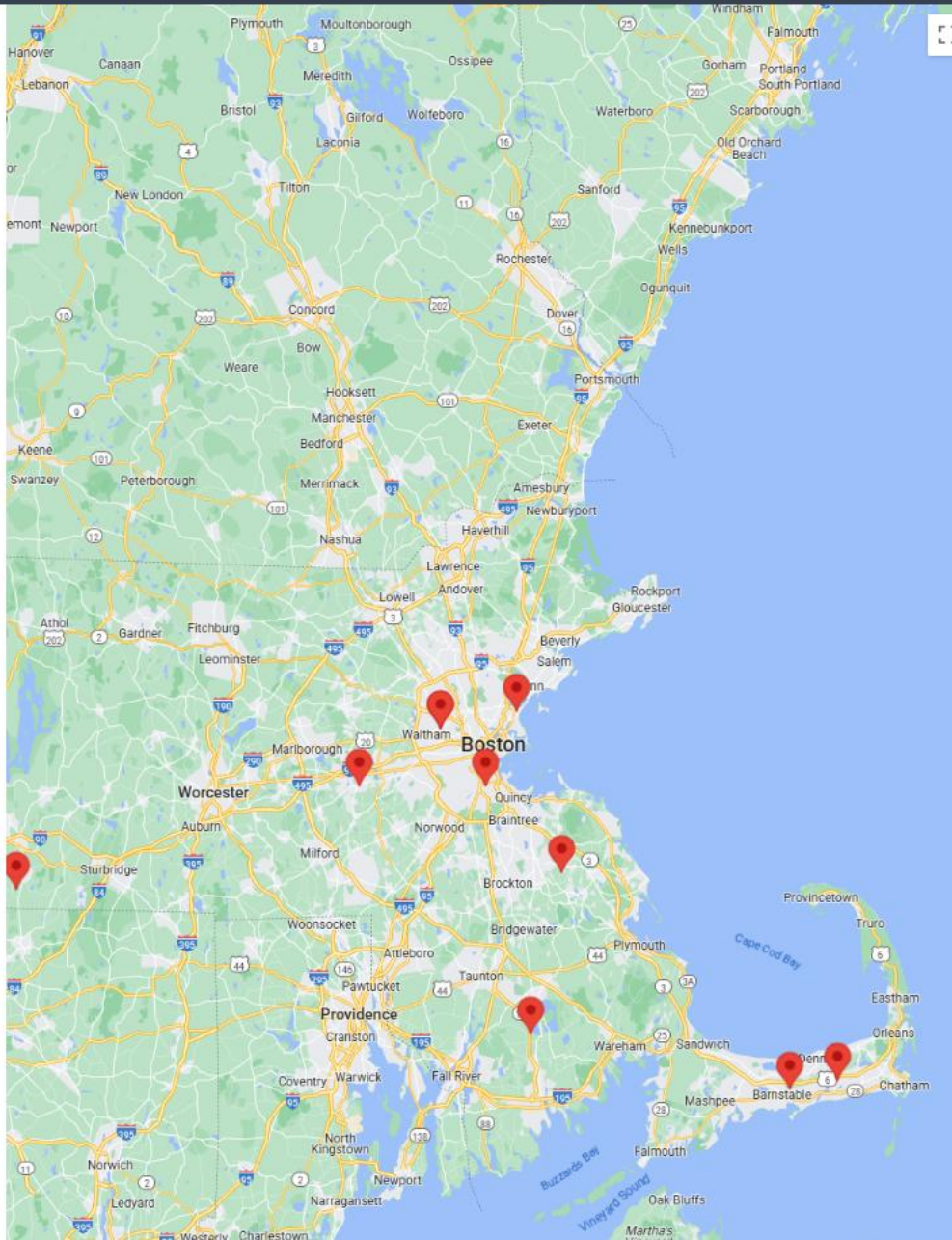
Industry

Snow Removal

Landscape Services

Certifications

MBE (Mass SDO)



Overview

New Project

Your Projects

- Real Zepeda**
Test
any industry
0 saved vendors
- Hector test 1**
Exec Srch
any industry
7 saved vendors
- drinks**
any industry
1 saved vendor
- BCH 1**
any industry
5 saved vendors
- testing data**
Construction
0 saved vendors
- cons**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- Construction**
Construction
0 saved vendors
- chocolate 1**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- test nov 11**
Food & Beverage
0 saved vendors
- SBA Exec Search**
any industry
6 saved vendors
- chocolate**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- example**
searchthursday
any industry
5 saved vendors
- fencing 1**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- tradespersons**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- test october**
2024
Landscape Services
0 saved vendors
- Karleen test 1**
any industry
9 saved vendors
- electricians**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- Exec Srch 1**
any industry
11 saved vendors
- mgc q1 search**
test
Landscape Services
0 saved vendors
- JMPC test**

[Return to vendors](#)

Omze Authentic Tequila, Mezcal & Spirits, Inc.

Industry: **Food & Beverage**

Information

Background

Evaluation Metrics

Company Description

Real Zepeda is a small batch craft tequila, family-owned, minority-owned, Boston-Local business. We are proud producers, exporters, importers, and distributors of our Tequila selection. Since we do not have middlemen that allow us to not only maintain the highest quality standards but also and more importantly to represent our people back in Mexico and our LatinX communities here in the United States. Products include: Classic Silver, Classic Reposado, Essentials Silver 100% Agave, Essentials Gold, Essentials Silver, Shot Glasses



Sub-Industries

Wine and Distilled Alcoholic Beverage

Product Categories

Alcoholic beverages, wine, and distilled spirits

Certifications

Small Business Purchasing Program

Issuer: Mass SDO
Certified date: 1/27/2025
Renewal date: 1/26/2027
[View certificate](#)

Tequila NOM Compliance

Issuer: Consejo Regulador del Tequila, A.C.
Certified date: 6/23/2022
Renewal date: --
[View certificate](#)

Small & Local Business Enterprise

Issuer: City of Boston
Certified date: 1/17/2024
Renewal date: 1/16/2027
[View certificate](#)

Minority Business Enterprise

Issuer: City of Boston
Certified date: 1/17/2024
Renewal date: 1/16/2027
[View certificate](#)

Company Information

Registered Name: **OMZE AUTHENTIC TEQUILA, MEZCAL & SPIRITS, INC.**

Registration State: **MA**

Corporation Type: **Domestic Profit Corporation**

Incorporation Date: **7/18/2017**

Support Organization: **Mill Cities Community Investments**

Company Details

Boston, MA

Owned by Oscar M Zepeda & Oscar M Zepeda, Jr.

oscarzepeda@omzegroup.com

(917) 349-9637

10 Post Office Square Suite 800 South, Boston, MA 02108

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)



Your Projects

- Real Zepeda Test**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- Hector test 1 Exec Srch**
any industry
7 saved vendors
- drinks**
any industry
1 saved vendor
- BCH 1**
any industry
5 saved vendors
- testing data**
Construction
0 saved vendors
- cons**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- Construction**
Construction
0 saved vendors
- chocolate 1**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- test nov 11**
Food & Beverage
0 saved vendors
- SBA Exec Search**
any industry
6 saved vendors
- chocolate**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- example searchthursday**
any industry
5 saved vendors
- fencing 1**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- tradespersons**
any industry
0 saved vendors
- test october 2024**
Landscape Services
0 saved vendors
- Karleen test 1**
any industry
9 saved vendors
- electricians**
any industry
0 saved vendors

[← Return to vendors](#)

Omze Authentic Tequila, Mezcal & Spirits, Inc.

Industry: **Food & Beverage**

Information

Background

Evaluation Metrics

Mission Statement

Real Zepeda is a small-batch, family-owned tequila company with a mission to create the ultimate unique and authentic tequila experience while representing the Jimadores and Mexican culture.

Awards

Bartender Spirits Award - Silver, Te Silver & Bronze

Background Story

Real Zepeda was founded by a father and a son- Oscar Zepeda Sr. and Oscar Zepeda Jr. Oscar Sr. raised Oscar Jr. and his sister, Michelle, as a single father in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Oscar Jr. grew up loving nothing more than soccer and spent time playing professional soccer in Mexico before being offered a scholarship to move to the United States to play college soccer in Massachusetts. Oscar Jr. boarded a plane to Boston in the late summer of 2013, nervous to leave his home but eager to take advantage of higher education and a new adventure. Although it was much colder than he was anticipating, New England quickly made Oscar Jr. feel right at home. After coming to watch his son play soccer, both Zepeda men quickly began viewing New England as their second home, falling in love with the people and the spirit of the region. In school, Oscar Jr. was studying international business and marketing, and back in Mexico, Oscar Sr. had been working in the exportation industry. The father and son team began talking about how they could create something that will bring a unique tequila experience to the United States. Jalisco is known as the home of tequila, and the two recognized that the North East of the United States was thirsty for a different kind of tequila experience. That is how the idea for Real Zepeda was born. The Zepeda men did years of market research to determine what exactly customers and industry business owners wanted a tequila to taste like. Real Zepeda's slightly smoky taste and signature smooth finish is no accident. They knew that the people of New England would help them create a tequila that would stand out and be enjoyed anywhere in the world. After of lots hard work and trial and error, the only thing the Zepeda's had left to do was name their tequila. They decided that the best way to show their pride in their tequila was to name it after what they valued most- family. Real Zepeda officially launched in January of 2019.

Owner



Oscar M Zepeda & Oscar M Zepeda,

Company Values

Our purpose is to promote and preserve the culture and heritage of Mexico by bringing an authentic tequila experience to the market. The agave we cultivate is nurtured in the central region of Tequila, Jalisco, recognized for its exceptional terrain and distinct soil that yields the most superior Blue Weber Agave globally. We are committed to creating a sustainable business that positively impacts our communities by providing job opportunities for workers in Mexico and our immigrant community in the United States, particularly our Latino community.

Company Makeup

Owner Gender: **Man**

Owner Ethnicity: **Hispanic or Latino**



Reliable Vendor Search Partner

Vendor Data

- ✓ Customized and focused vendor search projects.
- ✓ Verified vendor business and certification information.
- ✓ Buyer-tailored capability statements.
- ✓ Detailed industry-specific information.
- ✓ Access to online portal for deep-level vendor data



Responding to Market Needs

Solutions designed to support the needs of institutional buyers

Financial Partner

- ✓ Financing solutions to support existing vendors.
 - PO financing
 - Contract financing
 - Factoring
 - Lines of credit
 - Growth capital
- ✓ Financial diligence.
- ✓ Wrap-around services for vendor portfolio.



Vendor Data

- ✓ Customized and focused vendor search projects.
- ✓ Verified vendor business and certification information.
- ✓ Buyer-tailored capability statements.
- ✓ Detailed industry-specific information.
- ✓ Access to online portal for deep-level vendor data



Reliable Financial Partner

Results of pilot phase

119

Invoices Financed

\$0.7 million

Total Financing

\$4.2 million


Revenues Enabled

7

Institutional Buyers



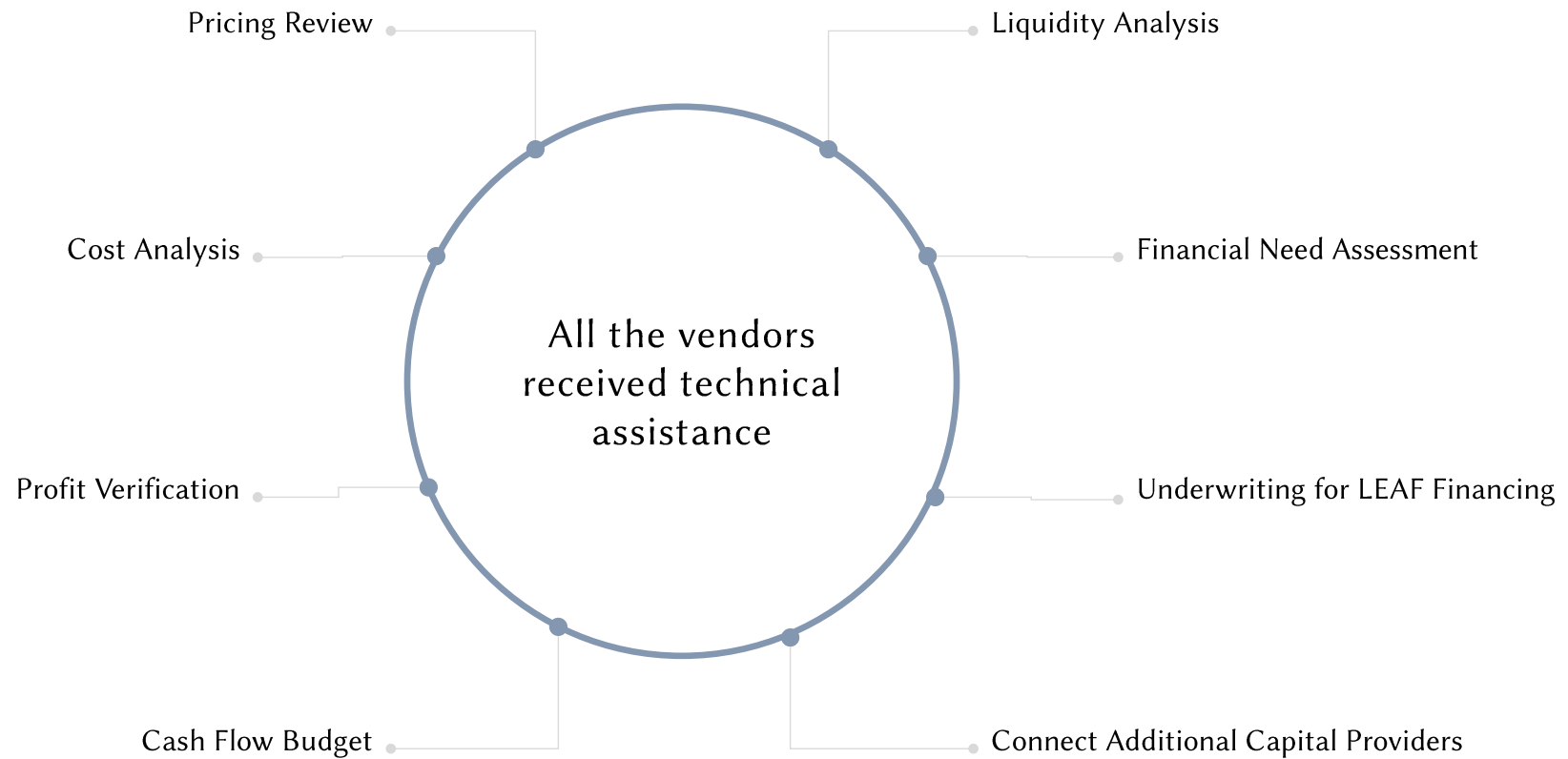
Reliable Financial Partner



All the vendors
received technical
assistance



Reliable Financial Partner



Thank you.





Division of Racing

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

FROM: Alexandra Lightbown, Director of Racing

CC: Dean Serpa, Executive Director
Todd Grossman, General Counsel

DATE: April 10, 2025

RE: Payment to the Jockeys' Guild from pari-mutuel
taxes for 2024

M.G.L. Chapter 128A Section 5 (h) (4) details how part of the pari-mutuel taxes paid to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission are to be used: "To pay: ...\$65,000 annually to an organization, as determined by the commission, that represent the majority of jockeys who are licensed by the commission and regularly ride in the commonwealth for the purpose of providing health and other welfare benefits to active, disabled or retired jockeys..."

For years, the organization that has represented these jockeys has been the Jockeys' Guild. Suffolk Downs did not conduct any live racing after 2019. They continue to simulcast, and there is still enough revenue to pay the \$65,000.

- At the February 25, 2021 Commission meeting, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission reviewed the statute, considering there was no more live racing at Suffolk Downs beginning in 2020.
- The Commissioners then voted unanimously to approve the Jockeys' Guild as the organization who represented the majority of the jockeys licensed by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and who regularly rode in the commonwealth.
- The Commission requested that the Jockeys' Guild and I review the qualifications for jockeys to receive the benefits. The new qualifications were presented at the April 8, 2021 meeting. I stated I had no objections to them. The Commissioners also had no objections to the new qualifications. The \$65,000 was paid to the order of the Jockeys' Guild, who then dispersed it to the jockeys who qualified.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

- Mindy Coleman, Attorney for the Jockeys' Guild, and I have reviewed the qualifications each year since then, including this year, and see no reason to change them. The MGC approved the Jockey' Guild as the representative organization each of those past years, the money was paid to them, and they dispersed it to the jockeys who qualified.

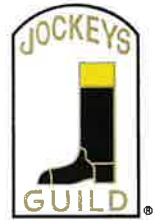
Recommendation: That the Commission approves the Jockeys' Guild as the organization that represent the majority of jockeys for the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 128A Section 5 (h) (4).



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

April 2, 2025

Dr. Alexandra Lightbown
Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal Street 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
Sent via email alexandra.lightbown@state.ma.us



RE: Request of Funds under MLGA 128A §5(h)(4)

Dear Dr. Lightbown,


On behalf of the Jockeys' Guild, we are respectfully requesting to be included on the agenda for the Commission meeting scheduled for April 10, 2025 for consideration of recognition and approval for distribution of the funds under MLGA 128A §5(h)(4). The statute authorizes for \$65,000 annually to be paid to the "organization, as determined by the commission that represents the majority of the jockeys who are licensed by the commission and regularly ride in the commonwealth for the purpose of providing health and welfare benefits to active, disabled or retired jockeys."

The Guild has been and continues to be the organization representing professional jockeys in American Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing and has approximately 1,070 active, retired, and permanently disabled members, including those jockeys who rode in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In June of 2024, and again in November of 2024, the members of this Commission elected to continue to recognize the Guild as the "organization who represents the majority of the jockeys" for purposes of receiving and distributing the funds under MLGA 128A §5(h)(4) and G.L. c.23K, §60(c)(iii), respectively. In 2021, the Guild provided proposed qualifications for retired and permanently disabled jockeys who were regular jockeys within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We would respectfully request that the previous submitted qualifications, as attached herein, still be applicable. As racing has yet to resume in Massachusetts, nor is scheduled for 2025, there are still not any qualifications for active jockeys.

Based on the previously approved qualifications, there would be approximately 16 jockeys who would be eligible to receive the benefit, including 11 retired and 5 permanently disabled jockeys. Please note, that is subject to change based on circumstances of individuals and potential changes in classification.

As has been done in the past, the distribution amount would be based on pro rata share of the \$65,000 to the qualifying individuals. It is the intention of the Guild that these monies be used to reimburse jockeys for their medical expenses. This can include any out of pocket expenses for health care premiums, deductibles, medical expenses and/or prescription expenses, dental expenses and/or temporary disability insurance policy premiums.

The Guild sincerely appreciates the Commission's previous approval and continued consideration regarding the distribution of funds for the benefit of the qualifying jockeys. If there are any questions or concerns that need to be addressed prior to the Commission meeting, please feel free to contact me in the office at (859) 523-5625 or via email at mcoleman@jockeysguild.com.

Sincerely,

Mindy L. Coleman
Counsel

**MASSACHUSETTS JOCKEYS HEALTH AND WELFARE DISTRIBUTION
ELIGIBILITY QUALIFICATIONS
Effective April 1, 2021**

RETIRED MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

The JOCKEY is eligible if the following qualifications are met:

1. Must have been a member of the Jockeys' Guild, AND
2. Retired from racing on or after January 1, 2008, AND
3. Must have ridden in the State of Massachusetts since January 1, 2008, AND
4. Must have ridden at least two thousand five hundred (2,500) career mounts in legal pari-mutuel races conducted by the State of Massachusetts OR ten (10) years as a licensed Massachusetts jockey.
5. For the purposes of this section, an individual, who meets the aforementioned qualifications, shall be considered to be retired from racing if the individual has ridden in fewer than fifty (50) races, in the previous calendar year, at any track in the United States licensed to conduct pari-mutuel wagering.

PERMANENTLY DISABLED QUALIFICATIONS

A QUALIFYING JOCKEY is eligible if the following qualifications are met:

1. Must have been a member of the Jockeys' Guild at the time of the injury, AND
2. Must not hold a license as a jockey in any racing jurisdiction, AND
3. Must have suffered a career-ending injury at a Massachusetts racetrack recognized by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission OR must achieve the retired member qualifications if injured at a track outside of Massachusetts, AND
4. Must be permanently disabled under the Social Security Act and must qualify for Medicare benefits under Part A, B, and D.

It is the intention of the Guild that these monies be used to reimburse jockeys for their medical expenses. This can include any out of pocket expenses for health care premiums, deductibles, medical expenses and/or prescription expenses, dental expenses and/or temporary disability insurance policy premiums.

The above qualifications are effective as of 2021 and will remain effect until further notice when live racing returns to Massachusetts. Jockeys' Guild reserves the right to make modifications to the qualifications once live racing resumes in Massachusetts.

Funding for this benefit is only available upon receipt of the monies from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.



Division of Racing

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMISSIONERS EXECUTIVE STAFF DIVISION OF RACING	03
MISSION STATEMENT MILESTONES	04
PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO	05
SUFFOLK DOWNS/WONDERLAND RAYNHAM PARK	06
LICENSING	07
MA STATE POLICE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT	08
VETERINARY LABORATORY SERVICES	09
HORSE HEALTH	10
ENFORCEMENT OF RULES & REGULATIONS	11
BOARD OF JUDGES	12
COMMISSION BUSINESS	13
PARI-MUTUEL AUDITING & COMPLIANCE	14
FINANCIALS	15
RACING TERMINOLOGY	21

COMMISSIONERS

Jordan Maynard Chair

Eileen O'Brien Commissioner

Bradford R. Hill Commissioner

Nakisha Skinner Commissioner

Paul Brodeur Commissioner

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Dean Serpa Executive Director

Burke Cain Gaming Agents Division Chief

Monica Chang Chief of Financial Investigations

Joe Delaney Chief, Division of Community Affairs

Todd Grossman General Counsel

Katrina Jagroop-Gomes Chief Information Officer

Kathleen Kramer Chief Enforcement Council

Derek Lennon Chief Financial Officer

Alexandra Lightbown, D.V.M. Director of Racing and Chief Veterinarian

Thomas Mills Chief of Communications

Caitlin Monahan Director of Investigations and Enforcement Bureau

Kara O'Brien Chief of Licensing

Carrie Torrisi Chief, Division of Sports Wagering

Mark Vander Linden Director of Research and Responsible Gaming

DIVISION OF RACING

Alexandra Lightbown, D.V.M. Director of Racing and Chief Veterinarian

Chad Bourque Financial Analyst

William Egan Licensing Coordinator

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is to regulate the legal casino, horse racing, and sports wagering industries with integrity and transparency. Our goal is to maximize consumer protections, minimize negative impacts, and promote responsible gaming through regulation, research, and informed policy making. The Commission endeavors to create a fair and safe gaming environment in the Commonwealth while fostering economic benefits and a diverse workforce for its licensees, residents, and businesses.

The Massachusetts State Racing Commission (“SRC”) was a predecessor agency created by an act of the General Court in 1934. The State Racing Commission, pursuant to Chapter 4 of the Acts of 2009, was transferred to the Division of Professional Licensure (“DPL”), on January 1, 2010. Effective May 20, 2012, all State Racing Commission functions were further transferred to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, pursuant to Section 89 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011. DPL continued to manage all racing operations through an inter-agency service agreement through the end of calendar year 2012. The Division of Racing of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission assumed control of the fiscal and operational activities of the old State Racing Commission on January 1, 2013.

2024 MILESTONES

The 2024 Plainridge live racing season got off to a great start with \$906,362 spent on paddock renovations that were completed before opening of the live race meet.

Once again, Plainridge successfully hosted the \$250,000 Spirit of Massachusetts Trot and the \$100,000 Clara Barton Pace. Other highlights were the \$100,000 Paul Revere Pace for 3-year-old pacers and the \$100,000 Battle of Bunker Hill Trot for 3-year-old trotters. These all drew national attention to Massachusetts harness racing. The Sire Stakes Program for horses bred in Massachusetts continued to grow, giving out over \$3,000,000 in purses.

PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO

MAILING ADDRESS

Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment, LLC
d/b/a Plainridge Park Casino
301 Washington Street
Plainville, MA 02762
(508) 643-2500



MEET PERIOD

April 15, 2024 – November 29, 2024

2024 RACING STATS

Number of race days:	108
Number of races (excluding Sire Stakes):	1,1109
Number of starts (excluding Sire Stakes):	8,288
Average field size (excluding Sire Stakes):	7.47
Purses (excluding Sire Stakes):	\$15,734,432
Average daily purse (excluding Sire Stakes):	\$145,689
Number of Sire Stake Races:	44
Number of Sire Stake Starters:	79
Number of Sire Stake Starts:	271
Average field size:	6.16
Sire Stake purses:	\$3,140,000
Average Sire Stake purse per race:	\$71,364

TRACK STATS

Barn Area Stall Space:	180
------------------------	-----

RACE TRACK

5/8ths mile
Pylons

SUFFOLK DOWNS

MAILING ADDRESS

Sterling Suffolk Racecourse, LLC
525 McClellan Highway
East Boston, MA 02128
(617) 567-3900



SIMULCASTING

5 days a week

RAYNHAM PARK

MAILING ADDRESS

1958 Broadway
Raynham, MA 02767
(508) 824-4071



SIMULCASTING

6 days a week

WONDERLAND PARK

MAILING ADDRESS

d/b/a/ Sterling Suffolk LLC
525 McClellan Highway
East Boston, MA 02128
(617) 567-3900



SIMULCASTING

No longer simulcasting, remains licensed per Commonwealth of Massachusetts Acts of 2023 Chapter 26.

Please note: Pursuant to Chapter 128 of the Acts of 2022, and effective as of August 1, 2023, no Massachusetts racing meeting licensee, including a licensee holding racing meetings in connection with a state or county fair, as defined in section 1 of chapter 128A, shall simulcast or accept a simulcast wager on greyhound dog racing.

LICENSING

LICENSING STAFF

Bill Egan Licensing Coordinator

John Gilbert Contract Licensing Coordinator

One of the Commission's foremost responsibilities is the issuance of occupational licenses to every person who participates in racing, and to associations who operate the Commonwealth's racetracks and simulcast facilities. Licensing Coordinators supervise the operation of the Commission's field offices located at Suffolk Downs, Raynham Park, and Plainridge Park Casino. They work closely with Judges, racing officials, track security, the State Police unit and the Gaming Commission to ensure that operations at each track are efficient and effective.

APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

The licensing process requires that every person who participates in racing complete an application. The application is reviewed for completeness by licensing staff who then forward the application to the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit, who conduct a background check of the applicant.

Once the background check is completed, the application is sent to the Board of Judges at each track. The Board reviews the application to determine if the applicant has the required integrity, ability, and the eligibility for the license for which the applicant has applied. The Commission also has access to the Association of Racing Commissioners' International (ARCI) files in Lexington, Kentucky and the United States Trotting Association's (USTA) database for violations. These files maintain a record of every racing related offense attributed to an applicant anywhere in the country. The Commission provides reciprocity to other jurisdictions and their licensing decisions.

If the Judges recommend licensing an applicant, the licensing staff collects the required fee and enters the appropriate information in the Commission's computer network. The applicant is issued a license card that entitles him to a photo identification badge. No person may enter any restricted area of a racetrack without a photo identification badge. Occupation's license includes jockeys, drivers, trainers, assistant trainers, owners of racing animals, blacksmiths, racing officials, vendors, stable employees and pari-mutuel clerks. Occupational licenses expire annually on December 31.

In 2024, the Division of Racing issued 1,596 occupational licenses and badges to persons participating in horse racing and simulcasting in the State, collecting a total of \$62,010.

MA STATE POLICE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

MA STATE POLICE

Robert Coletti Sergeant

Robert Miller Trooper

John Morris Trooper

The Commission's goals of protecting racing participants and the wagering public as well as maintaining the public's confidence in para-mutual wagering are achieved through the Commission's licensing, revenue collection, and investigative activities.

The Gaming Commission applies to the Department of Public Safety for an assignment of a compliment of police officers. In the performance of their duties, the State Police Investigative Unit investigates violations of the rules of racing and the Massachusetts general laws. The Investigative Unit's extensive responsibilities and activities have resulted in a major improvement in the Commission's regulatory/policing functions.

INVESTIGATIONS | BACKGROUND CHECKS

The State Police Investigative Unit committed itself to maintain a constant presence at each racetrack, especially during live racing, working closely with the Judges and other Commission and racing officials to help ensure that each track operated with honesty and credibility. Investigations and inspections are conducted by officers assigned to the State Police Racing Unit and aid in preserving the integrity of racing.

The State Police Investigative Unit conducts stable inspections that focus on the detection of safety violations, the presence of unlicensed persons in restricted areas, and the possession of illegal medications, drugs, and contraband. The State Police Investigative Unit conducts investigations relating to hidden ownership of racehorses, larceny, conduct detrimental to racing, and other administrative inspections. The Unit also conducts background checks and fingerprint submissions pursuant to Massachusetts Racing Licenses. These include Gaming Commission Employees, Racing Officials, and all occupational licensees, who participate at Massachusetts Race Tracks.

State Police Racing members work in conjunction with Gaming Enforcement members stationed at Massachusetts casinos, and the Commission headquarters in Boston. Racing Members are often first to arrive on assistance calls ranging from, medical, arrests, ejections, and altercations.

In 2024, the State Police Investigative Unit performed 1,161 background checks for the Division of Racing.

VETERINARY SERVICES

VETERINARIANS

Alexandra Lightbown, D.V.M. Director of Racing and Chief Veterinarian

Martha Barbone, D.V.M. Contract Veterinarian

Kevin Lightbown, D.V.M. Contract Veterinarian

Rise Sheehan, D.V.M. Contract Veterinarian

The Commission Veterinarians play an indispensable function in ensuring that the quality and integrity of racing within the Commonwealth remains strong by protecting the health and welfare of the equine athletes in Massachusetts.

EQUINE DRUG TESTING

A Commission Veterinarian supervises the testing areas to ensure proper collection and continuity of evidence for blood and urine samples collected from the racing animals.

Commission Veterinarians also testify at hearings and meetings on medication use, drug violations, animal care, new policies and procedures, etc.

LABORATORY SERVICES

INDUSTRIAL LABORATORY

In 2016, Massachusetts changed its testing laboratory to Industrial Laboratory in Colorado. Industrial Laboratory is ISO 17025 and Racing Medication Testing and Medication Consortium accredited. They perform testing for several racing jurisdictions. Testing protects the health of the animals and the integrity of races and contests.

Industrial is committed to improving their ability to detect new drugs of abuse. They work closely with the Association of Official Racing Chemists (AORC), Association of Racing Commissioners International, Inc. (ARCI) and Racing Medication Testing Consortium (RMTC). As a result, Industrial Laboratory is a driving force in the application of new technology for the drug testing industry.

In addition to testing urine and blood samples for the presence of drugs, Industrial analyzes syringes, vials, powders and a variety of materials seized as evidence. They also test for drugs in a variety of nutritional supplements.

INTEGRITY OF SAMPLES ENSURED

Special precautions are taken at all Massachusetts racetracks when post-race blood and urine samples are collected to ensure that no tampering can take place. In order to assure the continuity of evidence, every winning horse and all designated horses are under the surveillance of a Gaming Commission employee from the finish of the race until the specimens are obtained.

SAMPLES TAKEN AND ANALYZED

2024 marked the twelfth year that the Massachusetts Gaming Commission's Division of Racing participated in the Controlled Therapeutic Medication Program.

There were 1,094 Paired Urine/Blood Samples Analyzed, 1,336 Blood Samples Analyzed, and 2,510 TCO2 Blood Samples Analyzed. At Plainridge Park Casino, there was an adverse finding for Ketamine and one for TCO2. There were two overages for Dantrolene, three for Dexamethasone, four for Methocarbamol and one for phenylbutazone.

Items confiscated during investigations are also submitted for analysis. These items may include feed preparations, vitamins, liniments, antibiotics, other pharmaceuticals and medical devices such as needles and syringes.

HORSE HEALTH

The health and safety of the racehorses is of the utmost importance. Procedures to support this include, but are not limited to:

- Massachusetts state Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) requirements are enforced.
- Massachusetts state Equine Infectious Anemia ("Coggins") testing is enforced.
- Vaccination for Equine Herpes Virus-1 is required.
- Trainers are required to report their horse's temperatures to stable gate personnel before they enter the track premises.
- The Plainridge Park Identifier scans each horse's temperature before they race and reports any fevers to the Association (Plainridge Park) Veterinarian to evaluate. Sick horses are scratched (not allowed to race).
- The Association Veterinarian observes every horse warm up and scratches any horses deemed unsuitable to race.
- The Association Veterinarian responds immediately to any injuries occurring during a race.
- The Association Veterinarian observes every horse as they come off the racetrack and can restrict future racing if necessary.
- Any horse that dies or is euthanized at the track is necropsied. Blood is drawn for drug testing.
- An increase in the number of fatalities during the 2024 racing season was discussed by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission at the January 23, 2025 Massachusetts Gaming Commission meeting: [MGC Open Meeting – January 23, 2025 - Massachusetts Gaming Commission](#).

ENFORCEMENT OF RULES & REGULATIONS

Enforcement of the rules and regulations of racing begins with the investigation of complaints and prosecution of alleged violations by the Board of three Judges at the racetrack. One Judge is appointed by the racetrack and must be approved by the Gaming Commission and licensed as a racing official. Two Judges are appointed by the Gaming Commission.

The Judges are responsible for reviewing all occupational license applications and recommending or not recommending the applicant for a license. The Judges are present at the racetrack each day on which there is live racing and they oversee everything from drawing of post positions to making official the results of every race. In addition, the Judges preside over all hearings conducted at the track and report their rulings and findings to the Gaming Commission.

Before post time of the first race, the Judges review the daily program of races to approve any changes or report errors. Changes are reported to each department that might be affected by the change (i.e., mutuels, paddock judges, patrol judges, starters, clerk of the course, clerk of scales, program director, TV department and announcer). All changes are also reported promptly to the wagering public.

After observing every live race, both live and on television monitors, the Judges mark the order of finish as the horses cross the finish line. They give the first four unofficial finishers to the Mutuel Department, and when necessary, they post an inquiry, review an objection and request a photo finish. If there is an apparent violation of the rules, the Judges review the videotape and then make a decision before making the results of the race official.

If a violation of the rules occurs, the Judges notify all the parties involved in the violation. Sometimes only a warning will be issued but other times the offending horseman may be fined and/or suspended from participating in racing for a certain amount of time. If any party involved contests the decision of the Judges, then a hearing will be scheduled. After conducting the hearing, the Judges determine if any penalty such as a fine or suspension, purse redistribution, or other sanction should be imposed.

If any licensee disagrees with a decision of the Judges, they may appeal to the Gaming Commission, through its designated hearing officer. The Commission affords appellants adjudicatory hearings on the merits of their appeals. If appellants are dissatisfied with the decision of the Gaming Commission, they may appeal to the Superior Court of the Commonwealth in accordance with Chapter 30A of the General Laws.

PLAINRIDGE PARK BOARD OF JUDGES

COMMISSION JUDGES

Salvatore Panzera Associate Commission Judge

Christine Miller Associate Commission Judge

Peter Tommila Fill-In Associate Commission Judge

Charles Eaton Association Presiding Judge

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

The Plainridge Park Board of Judges issued 138 rulings in 2024 resulting in 116 fines and 21 suspensions.

APPEALS

There were seven appeals of Judges' Rulings. One was denied due to being past the filing deadline and two withdrew their appeals. In two cases, the MGC motions to dismiss were allowed. Two cases went to hearings with a hearing officer. Both were found in favor of the plaintiff. One of those was appealed to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission Commissioners.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

As required by Chapter 128A of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Commission held a public hearing in the fall of 2024 for the one application for a 2025 harness racing meeting. This was followed by an adjudicatory hearing. The Commission approved the application of Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment, LLC, to conduct harness horse racing in 2025 at Plainridge Park Casino.

DECISIONS APPEALED TO THE DIVISION OF RACING

The Commission has taken extensive precautions to ensure licensees due process throughout the appeal process. The Commission has a Stay-of-Suspension process. These permit licensees suspended by the Judges for a minor violation of the rules that does not compromise the integrity of racing to continue to participate in racing until the licensee has been provided a hearing by the Commission and a decision made. Procedural safeguards were adopted to prevent licensees from abusing the Stay privilege. Hearings are conducted as soon as practicable from the time of the granting of a Stay, thereby preventing a licensee from participating while on a Stay status for an extended period of time.

DUE PROCESS AFFORDED ALL LICENSEES

Licensees charged with a violation of the rules that may result in the loss of a license are entitled to a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). Formal disciplinary hearings held by the Racing Division follow the requirements established in the Massachusetts APA. These requirements include issuing timely notice of hearings, providing the opportunity for an appellant to confront witnesses and to be represented by counsel.

COMMISSION DECISIONS APPEALED TO SUPERIOR COURT

In addition to hearing appeals, the Racing Division must prepare a complete record and legal decision for each case that is appealed to the Superior Court. When the record is completed and certified, it is forwarded to the Government Bureau of the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General and is assigned to an Assistant Attorney General who defends the case in court. The Commission and the Attorney General work closely together to present the best possible case in Superior Court. The Division of Racing takes this opportunity to thank the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General for the diligent, professional, and expert defense of Commission cases.

PARI-MUTUEL AUDITING AND COMPLIANCE

Responsibilities of the Commission's auditors include assessing liabilities owed to the Commission and overseeing the calculation of take-out from handle. The handle is the total amount of money wagered at each performance and the take-out percentage of handle is determined by statute.

All money wagered on a horse race goes through the equipment of one of the two Totalisator companies; namely, AmTote and Global Tote. These are private companies who sell their services to racetracks. Both Suffolk Downs and Raynham Park use the services of AmTote whereas Plainridge uses Global Tote. These companies provide the machines for wagering, those used by the tellers and the self-service terminals. The "tote" system accepts wagers and based on those wagers, it calculates the odds on each betting interest, displays them, produces and configures the payouts following the race and later cashes the tickets given to the bettor. This is all accomplished through very sophisticated computerized equipment that can combine all wagers placed, no matter where they are coming from, including those placed via computer, live at the track where the race is being conducted and at all guest sites that have contracted to wager with the host track. All these wagers go into a common pool. The term "host" is the track where the race is being run and the term "guest" means any other location where wagers are made on a live race.

Before the start of a race card, all tote companies at the sites that will take wagers on the live product, connect with the tote at the host site. At the start of each individual race, the Steward/Judge at the Host track presses a key/button that locks all the wagering machines. This stops any betting after the start of any race. At the conclusion of a race, the Stewards/Judges determine the order of finish and notify their mutuel department who is linked to the Tote system that the race is going "official" and the numbers of the first 4 finishers are posted along with the payouts for all the different wagers; i.e., win, place, show, daily double, exacta, trifecta, superfecta, or any wager that is offered on the race by the Host track. Printouts from the tote system are audited by the Racing Commission Auditors for accuracy and compliance with current statutes.

A summary sheet, detailing the breakdown of the statutory take-out is prepared by Commission Auditors for each individual racing performance. For live racing, the information is provided by the on-site tote system. For imported simulcast races, a report from the host track is faxed to the guest track. This report is used in conjunction with on-track reports to complete the summary sheet. This activity ensures that the public, the Commonwealth, purse accounts, and all designated trust funds are properly funded. The Commission Auditors prepare a handle reconciliation report on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. This report shows the handle broken down as to live, signal exported, and signal imported. Further, the balance of all current unclaimed winning tickets and the liquidity of the mutuel department are audited by the Commission Auditors.

DIVISION OF RACING FINANCIALS

RECEIPTS

Commission	\$888,924
Assessment	\$752,185
Association License Fees	\$280,500
Licensing	\$62,010
Fines & Penalties	\$30,250
Total	\$2,013,869

EXPENDITURES

Regular Employee Compensation	\$583,588
Regular Employee Expenses	\$1,337
Contractor Payroll	\$387,626
Pension/Insurance	\$269,276
Administration Expenses	\$149,355
Operational Services	\$265,913
Information Technology	\$1,738
Total	\$1,658,833

RACING COMMISSION OPERATIONS

Receipts Available for Racing Operations	\$2,013,869
Expenditures for Racing Operations	(\$1,658,833)
Total	\$355,036

Additional Program Receipts

Unclaimed Tickets	\$359,013
Local Aid Appropriation	\$881,956

Additional Program Expenditures

Unclaimed Tickets	\$359,013
Local Aid Appropriation	\$881,956
Jockey's Guild	\$65,000

REVENUE

COMMISSIONS

Plainridge Park Casino	\$67,679
Suffolk Downs	\$66,487
Raynham Park	\$42,976
ADW's	\$711,782
Total	\$888,924

ASSESSMENTS

Plainridge Park Casino	\$69,974
Suffolk Downs	\$627,465
Raynham Park	\$54,541
Wonderland	\$205
Total	\$752,185

ASSOCIATION LICENSING

Plainridge Park Casino	\$109,800
Suffolk Downs	\$77,100
Raynham Park	\$93,600
Total	\$280,500

LICENSING AND BADGES

Plainridge Park Casino	\$61,480
Suffolk Downs	\$270
Raynham Park	\$260
Total	\$62,010

FINES AND PENALTIES

Plainridge Park Casino	\$30,250
Total	\$2,013,869

COMMISSIONS VARIANCE	2023	2024	VARIANCE	(+/-) %
Plainridge Park Casino	\$78,064	\$67,679	(\$10,385)	(13.30 %)
Suffolk Downs	\$75,282	\$66,487	(\$8,795)	(11.68 %)
Raynham Park	\$58,321	\$42,976	(\$15,345)	(26.31 %)
ADW's	\$687,894	\$711,782	\$23,888	3.47 %
Total	\$899,561	\$888,924	(\$10,637)	(1.18%)

ASSESSMENTS VARIANCE

Plainridge Park Casino	\$66,229	\$69,974	\$3,745	5.35 %
Suffolk Downs	\$623,754	\$627,465	\$3,711	0.60 %
Raynham Park	\$59,590	\$54,541	(\$5,049)	(8.47 %)
Wonderland	\$427	\$205	(\$222)	(52.00 %)
Total	\$750,000	\$752,185	\$2,185	0.29 %

ASSOC. LICENSING VARIANCE

Plainridge Park Casino	\$109,500	\$109,800	\$300	0.27 %
Suffolk Downs	\$76,800	\$77,100	\$300	0.39 %
Raynham	\$92,700	\$93,600	\$900	0.97 %
Total	\$279,000	\$280,500	\$1,500	0.54 %

LICENSING | BADGES VARIANCE

Plainridge Park Casino	\$60,575	\$61,480	\$905	1.49 %
Suffolk Downs	\$600	\$270	(\$330)	(55.00 %)
Raynham	\$40	\$260	\$220	550.00 %
Total	\$61,215	\$62,010	\$795	1.30 %

FINES | PENALTIES VARIANCE

Plainridge Park Casino	\$38,400	\$30,250	(\$8,150)	(21.22 %)
Total	\$2,028,176	\$2,013,869	(\$14,307)	(0.71 %)

HANDLE

HANDLES

PPC Live	1,069,934
PPC Export	15,337,837
PPC Simulcast	15,981,997
Suffolk Simulcast	17,729,870
Raynham Park Simulcast	11,460,383
Hollywood Races ADW	2,146,377
TVG ADW	69,608,106
NYRA ADW	23,170,203
TwinSpires ADW	33,810,178
Xpressbet ADW	16,814,465
FanDuel Racing ADW	29,544,051
Caesars Racebook ADW	1,047,847
DK Horse ADW	12,500,621
AmWest	1,092,866
Total	251,314,735

HANDLE VARIANCE	2023	2024	VARIANCE	(+/-) %
PPC Live	1,113,748	1,069,934	(43,814)	(3.93 %)
PPC Export	17,889,697	15,337,837	(2,551,860)	(14.26 %)
PPC Simulcast	18,698,654	15,981,997	(2,716,657)	(14.53 %)
Suffolk Simulcast	20,075,358	17,729,870	(2,345,488)	(11.68 %)
Raynham Park Simulcast	15,552,481	11,460,383	(4,092,098)	(26.31 %)
Hollywood Races ADW	2,867,160	2,146,377	(720,783)	(25.14 %)
TVG ADW	79,845,999	69,608,106	(10,237,893)	(12.82 %)
NYRA ADW	22,280,003	23,170,203	890,200	3.40 %
Twin Spires ADW	32,094,080	33,810,178	1,716,098	5.35 %
Xpressbet ADW	16,629,817	16,814,465	184,648	1.11 %
FanDuel Racing ADW	21,744,985	29,544,051	7,799,066	35.87 %
Caesars Racebook ADW	554,600	1,047,847	493,247	88.94 %
DK Horse ADW	7,312,281	12,500,621	5,188,340	70.95 %
AmWest	0	1,092,866	1,092,866	na
Total	256,658,863	251,314,735	(5,344,128)	(2.08 %)

PURSE

PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO	2023	2024	VARIANCE	(+/-) %
Race Days	107	108	1	0.93 %
Races	1,071	1,109	38	3.55 %
Purses & Bonus Awarded	\$18,966,962	\$18,874,432	(\$92,530)	(0.49 %)

TRUST FUNDS

PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO PROMOTIONAL TRUST FUND

Beginning Balance	\$327,856
Program Revenue	\$45,695
Total	\$373,551

SUFFOLK DOWNS PROMOTIONAL TRUST FUND

Beginning Balance	\$1,289,083
Program Revenue	\$197,766
Total	\$1,486,849

PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND

Beginning Balance	\$844,118
Program Revenue	\$106,358
Total	\$950,476

SUFFOLK DOWNS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND

Beginning Balance	\$6,882,518
Program Revenue	\$573,331
Total	\$7,455,849

RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND DISTRIBUTIONS

Thoroughbred Accounts	\$1,297,843
Harness Accounts	\$18,122,546
Total	\$19,420,389

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 23K SECTION 60.

The Race Horse Development Fund shall consist of monies deposited under subsection (c) of section 55. The Commission shall make distributions from the Fund to each licensee under chapter 128A. Funds received shall be distributed between Thoroughbred and Standardbred accounts, as approved by the Commission. 2024 is the tenth calendar year that monies have been distributed from the Race Horse Development Fund accounts.

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTERS 128A and 128C

In addition to licensing racetracks and participants, the Racing Division of the MGC has a primary responsibility to collect revenue in accordance with Chapters 128A and 128C of the General Laws. Each licensed racetrack pays a commission as determined by law in addition to license fees and other assessments. Racing Division Inspectors collect occupational license fees, badge fees and fines. All Commission activities are revenue driven as Commission expenditures come from Commission revenue and are made in a priority order in accordance with Section 5(h) of Chapter 128A.

RACING TERMINOLOGY

OUTS

Outs are the unclaimed winning wagers at each horse track. If the tickets haven't been presented for payment by 90 days after 31 December of the year following the year of the actual wager, they will be distributed to the commission. Subject to the rules and regulations established by the Commission, the Commission shall deposit the unclaimed live wagers into the purse accounts of the racing meeting licensees (Suffolk and Plainridge) that generated those unclaimed live wagers. When the outs come from Wonderland and Raynham, they go to the Racing Stabilization Fund.

BREAKAGE

Breakage – the difference in the rounding off the pari-mutuel payoffs. The difference in cents between the winning payouts and the nearest dime or nickel is called the Breakage. These breaks shall be paid to the commission on the day following each day of a racing meeting. The commission then dispenses the breaks as follows: The breaks from Suffolk and Plainridge go to their respective Capital Improvement Funds whereas the breaks from Wonderland and Raynham go to the Racing Stabilization Fund.

PURSES

Purses are the monies that the horses earn for racing. Each race has a purse amount assigned to it before the race is run. How much each horse earns of that purse depends on where the horse finishes and the amount of the purse. The actual money wagered on the race does not have an immediate impact on the amount of the purse. However, a percentage of every dollar wagered makes its way into the purse account for races later. The average daily purse is the amount of the total purses awarded during a race meet divided by the number of days of racing for that meet.

SIMULCASTING

Simulcasting is when a racetrack sends a closed-circuit transmission via satellite of its live racing to another location, either in the same state or out of state and sometimes out of the country. The track where the racing is being contested is called the Host and the location where it is viewed is called the Guest. People at the guest site bet on these races in real time. The Guest site customers receive the same payoffs as the customers at the Host track. All the money wagered by both the Host and Guest sites are merged and the odds are computed on the total amount of money wagered into these combined wagering pools. To view their races, the Host charges the Guest a certain percentage of the guest site's handle. This percentage is based on the quality of the racing and by agreement between the Host and Guest.

HANDLE

Handle is the amount of money wagered at a specific location, by individual race/ day/month or by year.



Sports Wagering Division

2025 Eastern Conference Winner and the 2025 Finals Winner. The spouse has formally requested these wagers be voided to facilitate the return of funds to the estate.

The total amount staked on these nine wagers is \$106,100. If approved, the funds will be returned to the deceased patron's account and made available for estate withdrawal.

DraftKings is requesting this void pursuant to 205 CMR 238.35(2) and has confirmed that all necessary regulatory requirements have been met. Within the documentation provided, DraftKings also states they believe that honoring such requests in exceptional circumstances strengthens public trust and upholds industry integrity.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT:

The Sports Wagering Division has reviewed the request and confirms that all requirements under 205 CMR 238.35(2) have been satisfied. It is recommended that the Commission approve the request to void these wagers and return the funds to the estate as requested.



Void Requests

Consistent with 238.35(2), for any transaction where a Sports Wagering Operator may cancel or void a Wager with prior authorization of the Commission, the Sports Wagering Operator shall submit a system of Internal Controls in accordance with 205 CMR 238.02 for voiding wagers and subsequent allocation of patron funds.

Operator:

Title:

Date:

Name:

In keeping with statutory and regulatory provisions, please provide information below:

Incident Date:

Date Reported:

A report documenting the incident must include summary/background, summary of wagers, root cause, mitigation, and resolution.

A wager report must include all wagers placed on the market, highlighting/indicating the wagers requesting to be voided.

- Total Stake \$:
- Total Liability \$:
- Total Patrons Impacted #:
- Total Number of Wagers:

An explanation per 205 CMR 238.35(2)(c); why cancelling or voiding the wagers is in the best interests of the Commonwealth or ensures the integrity of the industry.

An explanation of the resolution for patrons (which would include, at a minimum, the amount wagered returned to the patron).

Excerpt of current house rules that addresses this void

FOR MGC USE ONLY

Pursuant to 205 CMR 238.35(4), the Commission shall issue a written order granting or denying the request to void wagers.

Void Approved

Void Denied

Void Conditionally Approved Conditions:

Commission Meeting Date:

Signed by:

Date Signed:

DraftKings MA Void Request - Pending Bets											
Bet ID	Placed Date (Local)	Bet Status	Stake	Total Odds	Potential Payout	Bet Type	Placement Source	Events	Market	Selection	Jurisdiction
638554038455 902552	7/1/24 12:10 AM	Open	\$ 3,000.00	150	\$ 7,500.00	Single	MobileApp	NBA 2024-25	Eastern Conference Winner	BOS Celtics	USMA
638554038137 070480	7/1/24 12:10 AM	Open	\$ 12,000.00	150	\$ 30,000.00	Single	MobileApp	NBA 2024-25	Eastern Conference Winner	BOS Celtics	USMA
638554037650 595944	7/1/24 12:09 AM	Open	\$ 5,000.00	150	\$ 12,500.00	Single	MobileApp	NBA 2024-25	Eastern Conference Winner	BOS Celtics	USMA
638554037533 155408	7/1/24 12:09 AM	Open	\$ 11,000.00	300	\$ 44,000.00	Single	MobileApp	NBA 2024-25	2025 Finals Winner	BOS Celtics	USMA
638542813255 473897	6/18/24 12:22 AM	Open	\$ 50,000.00	280	\$ 190,000.00	Single	MobileApp	NBA 2024-25	2025 Finals Winner	BOS Celtics	USMA
638539273447 466212	6/13/24 10:02 PM	Open	\$ 4,000.00	280	\$ 15,200.00	Single	MobileApp	NBA 2024-25	2025 Finals Winner	BOS Celtics	USMA
638539272005 956006	6/13/24 10:00 PM	Open	\$ 6,600.00	280	\$ 25,080.00	Single	MobileApp	NBA 2024-25	2025 Finals Winner	BOS Celtics	USMA
638538507367 701603	6/13/24 12:45 AM	Open	\$ 12,000.00	310	\$ 49,200.00	Single	MobileApp	NBA 2024-25	2025 Finals Winner	BOS Celtics	USMA
638520294943 245752	5/22/24 10:51 PM	Open	\$ 2,500.00	350	\$ 11,250.00	Single	MobileApp	NBA 2024-25	2025 Finals Winner	BOS Celtics	USMA



TO: Chair Maynard, Commissioners O'Brien, Hill, Skinner, and Brodeur

FROM: Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming,
Bonnie Andrews, Sr. Research Manager

CC: Dean Serpa, Executive Director

DATE: April 10, 2025

RE: Proposed FY2026 Gaming Research Agenda

Background:

The Expanded Gaming Act enshrines the role of research in understanding the social and economic effects and mitigating the negative consequences of casino gambling in Massachusetts. To this end, with the advice of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee, the Commission is charged with carrying out an annual research agenda to comprehensively assess the impacts of casino gambling in Massachusetts. Specifically, [M.G.L. Chapter 23K §71](#) directs the research agenda to examine the social and economic effects of expanded gambling and to obtain scientific information relative to the neuroscience, psychology, sociology, epidemiology, and etiology of gambling. [M.G.L. Chapter 23N, §23](#) extends the scope of the research agenda to include an understanding of the effects of sports wagering in the commonwealth.

To support the successful implementation of these statutory mandates, the Commission adopted a strategic research plan that outlines research in seven key focus areas, including:

Economic Impact Research

The Economic Impact component of the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts (SEIGMA) study, currently conducted by a team from the UMass Donahue Institute, analyzes the fiscal and economic effects of expanded gaming across the Commonwealth. The economic research is intended to provide 1) neutral information on decision-making, 2) early warning signs of changes connected with casino gambling, and 3) help reduce gambling-related harm. To explore more about the economic impact research including completed reports: <https://massgaming.com/about/research-agenda-search/?cat=economic-impact>

Social Impact Research

The Social Impact component of the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts

(SEIGMA) study, currently conducted by a team from UMass Amherst, analyzes the social and health effects of expanded gaming across the Commonwealth. To explore more about the social impact research, including completed reports: <https://massgaming.com/about/research-agenda-search/?cat=social-impact-research>

Community-Engaged Research

The objective of community-engaged research is to understand and address the impact of gambling in Massachusetts communities. The specific research topic or question is developed by the community through a community-driven process. To explore more about the community-engaged research, including completed reports: <https://massgaming.com/about/research-agenda-search/?cat=community-engaged-research>

Public Safety Research

Public safety research examines gaming impacts on public safety, including crime, calls-for-service, collision, and driving under the influence data. This element of the Commission's research agenda has produced a baseline for each casino host and surrounding communities. Annual follow-up studies measure changes in activity and highlight possible connections to the casino. To explore more about the public safety research, including completed reports: <https://massgaming.com/about/research-agenda-search/?cat=public-safety>

Responsible Gaming Program Evaluation

The Commission is committed to offering effective, evidence-based responsible gaming programs and initiatives. Currently, these initiatives include statewide Voluntary Self-Exclusion, PlayMyWay Play Management System, and the GameSense program. The introduction of mobile sports wagering will usher in additional responsible gaming tools, and measures. Ongoing and independent evaluation informs the overall responsible gaming strategy and future direction of these programs. To explore more about the evaluation research, including completed reports: <https://massgaming.com/about/research-agenda-search/?cat=responsible-gaming-program-evaluations>

Massachusetts Gaming Impact Cohort

The Massachusetts Gambling Impact Cohort (MAGIC), was the first major longitudinal cohort study of gambling behavior in the United States. This study provided insights into demographic groups at risk of experiencing gambling-related harm and information on how gambling and problem gambling develop, progress, and remit. To explore more about the Massachusetts Gaming Impact Cohort, including completed reports: <https://massgaming.com/about/research-agenda-search/?cat=massachusetts-gambling-impact-cohort>

Data Sharing

To improve transparency and build upon the existing research body of research, the Commission has a robust research library and data sharing portal. The Massachusetts Open Data Exchange (MODE) invites researchers of all disciplines to use available gaming-related data to advance the empirical evidence and knowledge base about casinos' social and economic effects on individuals and communities. To explore more about the Massachusetts Open Data Exchange: <https://massgaming.com/about/research-agenda/>

Ongoing and Upcoming Research

The proposed FY26 research agenda will take place in the context of several multi-year research projects currently underway or upcoming from previous years' research agendas:

- **Social and Economic Research:** It is important to note that, in addition to the ongoing studies below, the Research and Responsible Gaming Division is currently seeking responses to an RFR released on March 28, 2025, to re-procure the social and economic research services currently being carried out by the University of Massachusetts SEIGMA team.
 - **Early Impact of Sports Wagering:** With sports betting at casinos since January 2023 and online since March 2023, the SEIGMA team will prepare two reports assessing preliminary data related to the social and economic impacts of this activity.
 - **Current Trends in Gambling, Sports Betting, and Problem Gambling in MA (2022-2024):** This report presents data from the Online Panel Surveys carried out by SEIGMA. The report presents information about gambling attitudes, gambling participation and problem gambling prevalence among monthly gamblers across four online panel surveys carried out in Massachusetts between 2022 and 2024. Changes in views of gambling as a recreational activity, in rates of gambling participation, gambling problems and gambling-related harms are also addressed, with a particular focus on those associated with sports wagering.
 - **Study of student-athletes:** This project, conducted by the Athletic Department, Campus Life and Wellbeing, and the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, aims to use a Personalized Feedback-only approach specifically designed to address at-risk gambling behaviors among college students involved in university-sponsored club sports.
- **Public Safety**
 - **Plainville Public Safety Report:** This study, awarded to Justice Research Associates, will use data through 2023 to assess changes in public safety in Plainville and surrounding communities.
 - **Integrated Public Safety Report:** This study, awarded to Justice Research Associates, will explore any changes in public safety related to the opening of the three MA casinos.
 - **Sex Trafficking Study:** This study, awarded to Safe Exit Initiative, will assess the influence of casinos and casino resorts on sex trafficking in the Commonwealth.
- **Community-Engaged Research**
 - **Youth Perspectives on the Legalization of Sports Wagering:** This project's objective is to understand community perspectives on the social and public health impacts of legalized sports betting in Massachusetts. To meet this objective, NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC) will engage a Community Advisory Board (CAB) to examine the legalization of sports betting in Massachusetts and its impact on young adults, ages 18-25, and support analysis and dissemination of data and findings. This is year 3 of a proposed 3-year study.

- ***Impact of Paid Media on Awareness and Participation of Sports Betting Among College Students:*** This community-engaged research project, awarded to Suffolk University, will focus on the social, health, and educational impacts of the introduction of legal sports wagering on higher education students in Massachusetts, particularly regarding their exposure to and participation in sports betting through paid media advertising. This is year 2 of a proposed 2-year study.
- ***Gambling on Addiction Recovery: Community Perspectives on the Impact of Legalized Gambling in Massachusetts:*** This community-engaged research project, awarded to Texas Tech University, aims to understand the impact of legalized gambling and sports betting on addiction recovery communities in Massachusetts, building on the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts studies. This is year 2 of a proposed 3-year study.
- **Evaluation of Responsible Gaming Initiatives**
 - ***Evaluating approaches to play management (Funded through the International Center for Responsible Gaming):*** This research, awarded to Carleton University, will build evidence to assist with informed decisions about the strengths and weaknesses of play management systems, as well as contribute to the development of effective responsible gambling initiatives.
 - ***AI and Player Risk Identification and Response Research Services:*** A study being carried out by the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) will center on current and possible uses of artificial intelligence (AI) in the gaming industry, with a particular focus on marketing, player acquisition, game integrity, and responsible gaming initiatives, as well as implications for problem gambling and player health in the Commonwealth. This focus on responsible gaming will include reviewing evidence and evaluation data related to identifying and responding to behavioral risk on sports wagering mobile applications.
 - ***Positive Play Study:*** This study, conducted by GamRes in partnership with the Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health, will identify the extent of positive play among Massachusetts players engaging in sports wagering and casino gambling, to define specific areas where positive play could be further supported, and to identify the extent of positive play among different player segments. The proposed study builds upon Positive Play studies conducted in 2021 and 2023.
 - ***Evaluation of the Voluntary Self-Exclusion Program:*** An evaluation of the voluntary self-exclusion program to build upon the previous evaluation of this program presented in 2018. The Research and Responsible Gaming Division is seeking responses to an RFR to be released this month.
- **Legislatively Mandated Study on Sports Wagering:**
 - ***Sports Wagering Diversity Study:*** The UMass Donahue Institute is carrying out a study on the participation by minority business enterprises, women business enterprises, and veteran business enterprises in the sports wagering industry in the Commonwealth

iGaming Study: A study on the impact of iGaming on public health, with particular focus on

comparison of participants with participants in other forms of gaming, comorbidity with problem gambling, and impacts on youth under the age of 25. This study is being conducted by Pret Solutions in partnership with Gemini Research and Dr. Lia Nower.

- **Collaboration with Community Mitigation Fund:** The Research and Responsible Gaming Division is also collaborating with the Community Affairs Division to support several ongoing and upcoming Gambling Harm Reduction community-engaged research project.

Proposed FY26 Gaming Research Agenda

The proposed FY26 Gaming Research Agenda is estimated to be \$1,882,000, a slight decrease from the adopted FY25 budget of \$1,930,000. As the FY26 research priorities are established, we'll continue to work with the finance division to ensure sufficient funding from the Public Health Trust Fund to support the research deliverables.

Below, the proposed FY26 research agenda is shared with you in the following table and includes 1) general description of each project, 2) specific deliverables/activities, 3) a reference to the section of M.G.L. c. 23K or the 2022 Massachusetts Sports Wagering Act, and significance.

Proposed FY2026 Gaming Research Agenda	
Social and Economic Research	
The Expanded Gaming Act (M.G.L. c. 23K § 71) required the MGC to engage in research to understand the social and economic effects of casino gambling in Massachusetts.	
Task/deliverable	Statutory and Practical Significance
Re-procurement of the Social and Economic Research contract	Relates to: M.G.L. c. 23K, §71 (2); M.G.L. c. 23N, § 23
	The MGC is currently engaging in a re-procurement of the social and economic research contract, as the current contract with the University of Massachusetts Amherst will expire on August 31, 2025. Research topics will be finalized following the award of the contract.
Task/deliverable	Statutory and Practical Significance
Springfield youth surveys	Relates to: M.G.L. c. 23K, §71 (2)(iv); M.G.L. c. 23N, § 23 (a) (iii)
	Support the addition of gambling-related questions to Springfield's FY25 youth surveys

Public Safety Research	
The MGC has engaged in a line of research to examine whether changes in crime, disorder and other public safety harms can be attributed directly or indirectly to the introduction of casinos and sports wagering and recommend strategies for preventing and mitigating the harm.	
Task/deliverable	Statutory and Practical Significance
Study on the Illegal gambling market	Relates to: M.G.L. c. § 71 (2)(ii); M.G.L. c. 23N, § 23
	A study of gambling on the illegal market among Massachusetts adults after the legalization of sports wagering, including characteristics of the illegal market, as well as frequency of gambling and motivation for gambling with unlicensed operators among people who gamble.

Community-Engaged Research	
Task/deliverable	Statutory and practical significance and description
Support existing projects	<p>Relates to: M.G.L. c. 23K, § 71 (3)(ii) M.G.L. c. 23N, § 23</p> <p>The objective of community-engaged research is to more deeply understand and address the impact of casino gambling in Massachusetts's communities. The specific research topic or question is developed by the community through a community-participatory process. Ongoing projects include Youth Perspectives on the Legalization of Sports Wagering (NORC at the University of Chicago), Impact of Paid Media on Awareness and Participation of Sports Betting Among College Students (Suffolk University), and Gambling on Addiction Recovery: Community Perspectives on the Impact of Legalized Gambling in Massachusetts (Texas Tech University).</p>
Task/deliverable	Statutory/practical significance and description
	<p>Relates to: M.G.L. c. 23K, § 71 (3)(ii) M.G.L. c. 23K, § 61</p>
Support new community-driven research projects through the Community Mitigation Fund	The Commission seeks to study and mitigate gambling-related harms through a program with the Community Mitigation Fund, which will provide funding for community-engaged research projects.

Data Sharing	
Task/deliverable	Statutory/practical significance and description
Maintain existing datasets in the MODE repository and add additional datasets as they become available, including player card data as required.	<p>Relates to: M.G.L. c. 23K, § 71 (2); Chapter 194, Section 97</p> <p>The purpose of MODE is to provide access to data generated by research projects funded and overseen by the MGC. Datasets from existing and ongoing research projects and player card data are publicly available with certain parameters.</p>
Finalize the infrastructure to share player data and procure first research projects using player data	The MGC, through a partnership with SHI International, the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute, idPair, and the Data Core team from the University of Massachusetts Data Science Center, to develop an anonymizing system for the player data provided by casino licensees as described in Section 97 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011.

Responsible Gaming Evaluation	
The MGC is committed to offering effective, evidence-based responsible gaming programs and initiatives. Ongoing and independent evaluation informs the overall responsible gaming strategy and future direction of these programs.	
Task/deliverable	Statutory/practical significance and description M.G.L. c. 23N, § 23
Behavioral analytics study	A study of utilization of player health tools on sports wagering apps in Massachusetts, as well as recommendations to increase uptake of player health tools.

Sports Wagering Research	
<p>The 2022 Massachusetts Sports Wagering Act, §23 extends the scope of the research agenda to understand the social and economic effects of sports wagering in the commonwealth and to obtain scientific information relative to the neuroscience, psychology, sociology, epidemiology and etiology of sports wagering. The sports wagering research agenda shall also include, but not be limited to: (i) an assessment of whether problem sports wagering is comorbid with problem gambling; (ii) an assessment as to whether the individuals participating in sports wagering are different than those who participate in other forms of gaming or gambling; (iii) an assessment of the impact of sports wagering on youth under the age of 25; (iv) an assessment of the impacts of sports wagering on college athletics and professional sports; and (v) the costs of implementing this chapter.</p>	
Task/deliverable	Statutory and Practical Significance
Study on sports wagering VIP programs	Relates to: M.G.L. c. 23N, § 23
	A study of the structure and function of sports wagering VIP programs, as well as player engagement and associations with problem gambling.
Task/deliverable	Statutory and Practical Significance
Sports wagering ad hoc study	Relates to: M.G.L. c. 23N, § 23
	Carry forward ad hoc study from FY25

Research Review
To ensure the highest quality research, the MGC has assembled a research review committee. This committee is charged with providing the MGC and research teams with advice and feedback on gaming research design, methods, and analysis. Where additional expertise is needed, the MGC seeks advice from experts with specific subject matter expertise to review reports and advise on research matters.
Knowledge Translation and Exchange
To ensure findings from the MGC research program are accessed and used by key stakeholders, MGC engaged an organization with expertise in this area, the Gambling Research Exchange of Ontario (GREO), in FY23 to help develop a strategic plan, provide ongoing training, consultation, and support to build in-house capacity to improve current KTE strategies, practices, and skill sets. In FY26, work on this initiative will finalize and mobilize the revised Responsible Gaming Framework.

Next Steps

The process for developing and finalizing the FY26 research agenda following this initial presentation to the Commission will include a meeting with the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee (GPAC) for advice and discussion as required by M.G.L. Chapter 23K §71. The proposed agenda will then be presented to Commissioners after incorporating advice of the GPAC. The FY26 research agenda will be finalized in alignment with the FY26 budget-setting process by the end of June 2026.