



Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: January 29, 2026, 9:30 a.m.
Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 996 2599

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

Commissioners Present:

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

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

Chair Maynard called to order the 579th Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (“Commission”). Roll call attendance was conducted, and all five Commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Meeting Minutes](#) (00:38)

a. [December 18, 2025](#) (00:48)

The December 18, 2025 public meeting minutes were included in the Commissioners’ Packet on pages 4 through 23.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the December 18, 2025 public meeting minutes as included in the Commissioners’ Packet and discussed here today, subject to any revisions for typographical errors or 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: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. January 8, 2026 (01:32)

The January 8, 2026 public meeting minutes were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 24 through 28.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the January 8, 2026 public meeting minutes as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today, subject to any revisions for typographical errors or other non-material matters. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Abstain.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed, 4-0 with one abstention.

3. Racing Division (02:25)

a. Race Horse Development Fund benefits for drivers and jockeys

Director of Racing and Chief Veterinarian Dr. Alexandra Lightbown explained that this matter was initially brought forward at the December 18, 2025 public meeting. She explained that on December 18, 2025, the Commission voted on the funds to be distributed to the standardbred drivers for health and benefits funds, and that before the Commission now was the determination of funds to be distributed to the thoroughbred jockeys. She noted that the distribution was different due to how the jockey and driver organizations were set up. *A memorandum and letters from stakeholders were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 29 through 35.*

Dr. Lightbown explained that there were no active jockeys in Massachusetts, but there were five permanently disabled jockeys. She stated that in the past, the jockeys would receive \$1,000 in benefits and that it was suggested at the December 18, 2025 meeting that there could be a 3% cost-of-living adjustment ("COLA"). She noted that the New England Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association ("NEHBPA") had 100 members on old age assistance and that they had not received a COLA increase on payments received. She noted that the Race Horse Committee previously decided how the money was split and that the figures had not changed since 2021. She stated that the Race Horse Committee could convene, review the distributions holistically, and determine whether it made sense to change the percentages.

Dr. Lightbown explained that 80% of the Race Horse Development Fund went to purses, 16% went to the breeder program, and 4% went to health and pension benefits. She noted that these percentages were then split between thoroughbred jockeys and standardbred drivers. She explained that 92% of the purses went to standardbreds and 8% went to thoroughbreds. She stated that 75% of the breeder program funds went to standardbreds and 25% went to thoroughbreds. She noted that health and pension funds were split evenly between standardbred and thoroughbred.

Commissioner Skinner withdrew her previous request to consider a 3% COLA for this year on the amount given to jockeys. She stated that she was able to review the budgeting calculations and thanked the NEHBPA for cooperating with the Commission's requests. She stated that she now understood more about the process and that she would withdraw her request on the condition that the Commission take the steps necessary to reconvene the Race Horse Committee.

Commissioner Hill thanked Commissioner Skinner for bringing this topic to the Commission's attention. He noted that he wanted to see the payments increase but recognized that it was a complicated formula and revenue scheme. He suggested that he and Commissioner O'Brien could reconvene the Race Horse Committee to review the numbers. The Commission reached a consensus to reconvene the Race Horse Committee.

Commissioner Hill moved that under G.L. c. 23K, § 60(c)(iii), \$1000 shall be paid by the Thoroughbred horsemen's organization to the thoroughbred jockeys' organization for the reasons discussed here today and as included in the Commissioners' packet. 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.

4. Finance Division (12:27)

a. FY2026 Mid-Year Budget Update

Chief Financial and Accounting Officer ("CFAO") Derek Lennon presented the mid-year budget update. *A memorandum and budget spreadsheets were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 36 through 44.*

CFAO Lennon explained that the budget was updated to increase the Gaming Control Fund's IT spending projections due to the renewal of central monitoring system contract. He stated that this change was budget neutral due to savings in payroll and fringe benefits. He stated that the

assessments on licensees for the Gaming Control Fund and Public Health Trust Fund would be adjusted to align with each licensee's proportional share of gaming positions.

2. Sports Wagering Division (17:32)

a. DraftKings Request for Temporary Waiver from Commission's Amended 205 CMR 247.07(5) and 205 CMR 248.10(2)

Chief of Sports Wagering Carrie Torrisi presented DraftKings' request for temporary waiver from the Commission's amended versions of 205 CMR 247.07(5) and 205 CMR 248.10(2). She explained that effective December 19, 2025, the Commission's regulations prohibited indirectly funding a sports wagering account by converting cryptocurrency to cash. She stated that before this amendment went into effect, DraftKings was working towards the launch of a new deposit method that would allow for deposit of converted cryptocurrency through a third-party platform.

Chief Torrisi further explained that DraftKings was launching the new deposit method in four states but not Massachusetts. She stated that DraftKings was developing technology necessary to segregate funds deposited from converted cryptocurrency in other jurisdictions so that those funds could not be utilized by Massachusetts accounts. She stated that DraftKings was seeking a waiver from the requirements of 205 CMR 247.07(5) and 205 CMR 248.10(2) through May 1, 2026 so that it could implement the fund segregating technology and perform testing to ensure funds are segregated. *A memorandum and DraftKings' request were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 47 through 51.*

Chief Torrisi stated that the Sports Wagering Division recommended the approval of the temporary waiver with the condition that DraftKings provide a full reporting of any transactions in which a Massachusetts account received cryptocurrency converted to cash indirectly from an authorized jurisdiction during the waiver period. She stated that the Division further recommended that Commission staff conduct an audit six-months after the segregation tool was finalized to ensure that no indirect cryptocurrency funds were transferred to a Massachusetts account after the waiver expired.

Commissioner O'Brien asked if all cryptocurrency funds that were transferred to a Massachusetts account during the waiver period would be segregated out once the technology was implemented. Chief Torrisi stated that the accounting would take place during the waiver period and would end once the tool to segregate funds was implemented. She stated that the audit would occur six months after that. Commissioner O'Brien stated that she had a fundamental opposition to the request given the status of cryptocurrency. She noted that this deposit method would not be launching in most jurisdictions and asked that DraftKings defer implementation in the other states until it was ensured that funds could be segregated.

Commissioner Skinner expressed that she shared Commissioner O'Brien's concerns in that deferring implementation would be preferable, but she did not want to stand in the way of business moving forward. She stated that it was not unreasonable to provide a waiver through May. She stated that it was important to conduct the audit to ensure that all concerns were addressed. She stated that she would be okay with granting the waiver request.

Chair Maynard stated that the regulation was changed while DraftKings was developing this deposit method and that he did not want to get in the way of its progress. He noted that Kentucky, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Illinois permitted use of cryptocurrency converted to cash and that asking DraftKings to defer implementation of the deposit method would affect those states' revenue. He stated that from a policy perspective, compliance was the goal and that DraftKings was working hard to comply. He stated that he would vote to approve the waiver.

Commissioner Hill stated that he agreed with Chair Maynard. Commissioner Brodeur stated that due to the reasons discussed, information provided, and limited nature of the waiver, he would vote to approve it.

Commissioner Hill moved that, pursuant to 205 CMR 202.03(2), the Commission issue a temporary waiver to DraftKings through May 1, 2026 from the requirements in 205 CMR 247.07(5) and 205 CMR 248.10(2), subject to the condition(s) discussed here today, as granting the waiver meets the requirements specified in 205 CMR 102.03(4) and is consistent with the purposes of G.L. c. 23N. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Nay.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed, 4-1.

b. [Updates to DraftKings House Rules](#) (26:54)

Compliance Officer David Harrison presented updates to DraftKings' house rules. *A memorandum and updated house rules language were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 45 through 46.*

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

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

5. [Investigations and Enforcement Bureau](#) (29:39)

a. Plainridge Park Casino’s Request for an Amendment to the Beverage License

Licensing Manager Richard Lawless presented Plainridge Park Casino’s (“PPC”) request to amend its beverage license. He stated that the request would add two beverage carts to service to allow delivery of alcohol on the gaming floor and that the licensed beverage area would remain unchanged. He stated that the Licensing Division reviewed the application and recommended that it be approved. *PPC’s request and a memorandum were included in the Commissioners’ Packet on pages 52 through 55.*

Chair Maynard asked if it was standard practice in the industry to use beverage carts. Manager Lawless stated that other Penn Entertainment properties used beverage carts but that he was unaware if carts were used at other casinos. Chair Maynard stated that the information provided addressed his concerns related to storage and locking. Commissioner Skinner stated that she had seen similar requests before and that beverage carts were not a new concept.

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the request submitted by Plainridge Park Casino to amend its beverage license to add two beverage carts to serve alcohol on the gaming floor as included in the Commissioners’ packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

6. [Legal Division](#) (41:03)

a. 205 CMR 250: Protection of Minors and Underage Youth from Sports Wagering – Discussion and Review of Regulation Amendments and Small Business Impact Statement for authorization to begin the promulgation process by Commission

Deputy General Counsel Jenna Hentoff presented proposed amendments to 205 CMR 250 for initial promulgation. *A memorandum, redline draft of 205 CMR 250, and Small Business Impact Statement were included in the Commissioners’ Packet on pages 56 through 60.*

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the Small Business Impact Statement and the draft of 205 CMR 250 included in the Commissioners’ 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 begin the regulation promulgation process. 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. [205 CMR 149.00: Race Horse Development Fund, specifically, 205 CMR 149.04 – Discussion and Review of Regulation and Amended Small Business Impact Statement for Authorization to send to the Clerk of Senate, and Final Review and Adoption](#) (44:49)

Senior Associate General Counsel Judith Young presented proposed amendments to 205 CMR 149.04 for final approval. She explained that as this is a horse racing regulation, it was required to be filed with the clerks of the Massachusetts Senate and House for 60 days. She stated that at the close of the 60-day period, she would file the regulations with the Commonwealth, and the regulation would take effect on or after April 24, 2026. *A memorandum, redline draft of 205 CMR 149.04, and Amended Small Business Impact Statement were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 61 through 66.*

Executive Director of the NEHBPA Paul Umbrello stated that he joined the public hearing held on this regulation's promulgation to comment but that the meeting was closed at the time he joined. Chair Maynard asked for confirmation the public hearing was held. Senior Associate General Counsel Young stated that the hearing was held on January 13, 2026 and was presided over by Commissioner O'Brien. Interim General Counsel Justin Stempeck stated that Mr. Umbrello could send his questions to him as the public comment period and hearing, which were properly noticed, were closed.

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the Amended Small Business Impact Statement and the draft of 205 CMR 149, specifically 205 CMR 149.04, as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today, and further, that staff be authorized to take the steps necessary to file the required documentation with the Legislature and thereafter, the Secretary of the Commonwealth to finalize the regulation promulgation process. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Chair Maynard stated that the Commission would review Agenda Items 8 and 9 before returning to Item 7(c).

c. [Executive Session Minutes](#) (53:19)

Chair Maynard stated that the Commission anticipated that it would meet in executive session to review minutes from previous executive sessions as their discussion at an open meeting may frustrate the purpose for which the executive session was convened, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and c. 23N, § 6(i): January 6, 2023; G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7), c. 4, § 7(26)(g), and c. 23N, § 6(i): September 30, 2025; G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and c. 4, § 7(26)(f): October 9, 2025 at 10:53 A.M.; G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3), (6) and (7); and c. 4, § 7(26)(f) and (n): October 9, 2025 at 11:54 A.M.; and G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3).

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission go into executive session for the reasons just stated by the Chair. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Chair Maynard noted that the Commission would not reconvene the public meeting session following the executive session.

Transcriber's Note: The Commission entered executive session and did not return to the public meeting session.

8. [Commissioner Updates](#) (51:54)

Commissioner Hill stated that there were some proposed state budget changes, including that some funds were proposed to be put back into the Community Mitigation Fund. He stated that he would provide an overview of changes affecting the Commission at the next public meeting.

9. [Other Business](#) (53:04)

Hearing no other business, the Commission returned to Agenda Item 7(c).

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated January 27, 2026](#)
2. [Commissioner's Packet from the January 29, 2026, meeting](#) (posted on massgaming.com)