



---

## GAMING POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** June 5, 2018 @ 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** State House Room 222, Boston, Massachusetts

**Members Present:**

Karen Sawyer Conard, Chair	Victor Ortiz
Stephen P. Crosby	Louise A. Zawodny
Senator Eric Lesser	Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante
Rep. Angelo L. D'Emilia	David Stein (Invitee)
Paul Picknelly	

### Call to Order

Chair Karen Sawyer Conard called the eighth meeting of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee to order at 1:05 p.m. She welcomed all attendees and introduced the meeting's topic of sports betting in Massachusetts.

### White Paper on Sports Betting Presentation

The MGC Chair introduced Paul Connelly, Director of Licensing, and Justin Stempeck, Associate Counsel to present a White Paper that they authored on Sports Betting.

The Committee reviewed a slide presentation entitled, "Massachusetts Sports Betting: History, Legality and Policy Considerations." The presentation included an overview of the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA), and outlined a challenge that was raised by the state of New Jersey that escalated to the Supreme Court.

It was noted that the Massachusetts Gaming Commission has taken no official position on the legalization of sports betting. However, discussions are taking place in Massachusetts since the Supreme Court's Decision to allow states to move to legalize sports betting, as well as discussion taking place in other states.

The Wampanoag tribe was mentioned as a likely stakeholder that would like to be considered to provide sports betting in Massachusetts.

There was discussion around illegal v. legal sports betting, as well as the existence of cryptocurrencies and their influence in this arena.

Senator Lesser asked why there is no law enforcement action on the black market. Director Connelly replied that there is enforcement by law enforcement, but it is difficult. Senator Lesser then asked how many arrests have been made, and if the MGC had any statistics on

this. Attorney Stempeck advised that this information could be obtained by contacting the Attorney General's Office.

Director Connelly added that the White Paper on Sports Betting was authored to pose questions and facilitate discussion for the legislature. Specific items suggested for the legislature to consider are moving sports betting from the black market to the legal market; capturing tax revenues, as well as taxes and fees that impact profitability.

### **Next Steps**

MGC Chair Crosby suggested that Massachusetts implement broad parameters around legislation in order to keep up with the constant evolution of online gaming that is created by demand.

MGC Chair Crosby asked how betting can be limited to people inside the state. Director Connelly described GPS tracking on devices, and signing in at a casino as examples. He also explained the Federal Wire Act, which sets out to make it an offense, liable to fines and/or imprisonment, to communicate betting information or transactions, either interstate or across borders, for the purposes of placing bets and wagers.

The issue of smaller tax revenues and method of regulation through fees was discussed, as well as the topic of monitoring developing trends on a state-by-state basis with regard to implementation.

Chair Conard adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

/s/ Shara N. Bedard  
Secretary

### **List of Documents and Other Items Used**

1. Notice of meeting and agenda
2. Membership of Gaming Policy Advisory Committees
3. White Paper on Sports Betting
4. Massachusetts Sports Betting: History Legality and Policy Considerations