



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: July 31, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

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

PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 747 5882

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 560th 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](#) (01:12)

The January 20, 2023, July 1, 2024, July 24, 2024, and July 15, 2025 public meeting minutes were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 4 through 29.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the January 20, 2023, July 1, 2024, and July 24, 2024 public meeting minutes as included in the Commissioners' packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Deputy General Counsel Jenna Hentoff noted that Commissioner Brodeur did not include language regarding corrections for typographical errors or other non-material matters.

Commissioner Brodeur moved to reconsider and offer a new motion to include the language stated by Deputy General Counsel Hentoff. 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.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the January 20, 2023, July 1, 2024, and July 24, 2024 public meeting minutes as included in the Commissioners' packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or other non-material matters. Commissioner Hill 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 unanimously 4-0, with one abstention.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the July 15, 2025 public meeting minutes as included in the Commissioners' packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or other non-material matters.

Commissioner Skinner noted that she had proposed edits as the full extent of her comments from the July 15, 2025 meeting were not fully captured in the minutes. She stated that she had made comments regarding Encore Boston Harbor's ("EBH") request for a permanent waiver from the letter of credit requirement, where she had expressed concern regarding the ability to access the funds. She stated that she wanted to also include comments clarifying her statements as to why she believed language in 205 CMR 115.04(2) was superfluous. Commissioner Brodeur accepted Commissioner Skinner's proposed amendments to the July 15, 2025 minutes. Commissioner O'Brien seconded Commissioner Brodeur's 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. [Research and Responsible Gaming](#) (10:34)

Research Manager Dr. Bonnie Andrews explained that there was a statutory requirement to create an annual research agenda regarding the social and economic impacts of gambling and sports wagering in Massachusetts. She explained that the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts (“SEIGMA”) team would present two reports in this meeting.

a. [Presentation of report, “Sports Betting in Massachusetts: 2023 Economic Impacts Report”](#) (12:46)

Thomas Peake, Research Manager of Economic and Public Policy Research from the UMass Donahue Institute, presented the Sports Betting in Massachusetts: 2023 Economic Impacts Report. Topics in the report included the following: sports wagering timeline, data sources, modeling strategies, in-state presence, vendor spending concentration, sports wagering’s effect on casino revenue, spending reallocation, job growth, and economic output. *The report and presentation were included in the Commissioners’ packet on pages 31 through 117.*

Commissioner Hill noted that there was one larger operator that was headquartered in the Commonwealth. He asked if the 12% of sports wagering operator employees who are Massachusetts residents would be lowered significantly if that company moved to another state. Dr. Peake stated that would be correct.

Chair Maynard asked if the shift in patron expenditures was coming from their entertainment budgets. Dr. Peake stated that was likely correct. He stated that the research used a modelling approach to calculate the statistics and then applied it to an economic impact model to make assumptions about how spending worked. He stated that most patrons were shifting spending from other forms of discretionary spending towards sports wagering.

Commissioner Brodeur inquired about how sports wagering affected the building trades such as construction. Dr. Peake stated that there was not high demand on the construction industry as the mobile operators did not have a physical location. He stated that any change in demand to the construction industry would likely be due to demand leading to the construction of a new data center.

Director of the Research and Responsible Gaming Division Mark Vander Linden stated that it was still the early days of sports wagering and that it was important to monitor all potential social and economic impacts.

b. [Presentation of report, “Current Trends in Gambling, Sports Betting and Problem Gambling in Massachusetts, 2022-2024”](#) (42:57)

Dr. Rachel Volberg, Research Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Principal Investigator with SEIGMA, presented the Current Trends in Gambling, Sports Betting and Problem Gambling in Massachusetts, 2022-2024 Report. Topics in the report included the following: panel survey methods, attitudes about gambling, gambling behavior, demographics of gamblers and sports bettors, gambling problems and harms, future directions, and

recommendations. *The report and presentation were included in the Commissioners' packet on pages 118 through 180.*

Commissioner Brodeur asked how the researchers ask respondents about behaviors that are illegal in Massachusetts. Dr. Volberg explained that the researchers did not ask if the respondents were doing something illegal as that would skew data. She stated that SEIGMA checked the respondents' answers against known illegal activities in Massachusetts.

Commissioner Brodeur asked if there was any information regarding the lottery included in the research. Dr. Volberg stated that the research included multiple lottery types and scratch tickets.

Commissioner Brodeur asked if the potential legalization of iGaming being considered by the Massachusetts Legislature would exacerbate the issues identified with online sports wagering. Dr. Volberg stated that there was evidence from other jurisdictions that introducing iGaming leads to increases in gambling problems. Director Vander Linden stated that there was an upcoming study on the potential social impacts of iGaming if it is legalized in Massachusetts.

Director Vander Linden stated that researching new forms of gambling helped to establish a baseline and monitor gambling behaviors. He stated that this early insight informed policy and where to direct resources.

4. [Sports Wagering Division](#) (1:16:36)

a. House Rules Update

I. Fanatics

Sports Wagering Compliance and Operations Manager Andrew Steffen presented proposed amendments to Fanatics' House Rules. *The proposed amendments to Fanatics' House Rules were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 181 through 182.*

Operations Manager Steffen stated that the sports wagering division had no issues with the proposed changes and recommended approval of the house rules.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the update to Fanatics' House Rules 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.

5. Legal (1:20:11)

a. 205 CMR 239.07: Audit of Operator Operations by Commission – Discussion and Review of Regulation Amendment and Small Business Impact Statement for authorization to begin the promulgation process by Commission (1:20:14)

Interim General Counsel Justin Stempeck presented proposed amendments to 205 CMR 239.07. *A memorandum, redline of 205 CMR 239.07, and Small Business Impact Statement were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 183 through 187.*

Chief of Sports Wagering Carrie Torrisi stated that the amended regulation would give the Commission discretion as to what the audit would look like each year. Commissioner Hill stated that this change made sense. Chair Maynard stated that the change would give the Commission latitude in deciding how it wanted to perform the audit. Commissioner Brodeur stated that the Commission would be able to use this discretion to drill down into areas of need identified by the staff.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the Small Business Impact Statement and the draft of 205 CMR 239.07 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 3.11: General Rules & 205 CMR 3.14: Licenses, Registrations and Fees for Participants in Racing – Discussion and Review of Regulation Amendments and Small Business Impact Statement for authorization to begin the promulgation process by Commission (1:24:52)

Associate General Counsel Judith Young presented proposed amendments to 205 CMR 3.11 and 205 CMR 3.14. *A memorandum, redlines of 205 CMR 3.11 and 3.14, and Small Business Impact Statement were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 188 through 194.*

Counsel Young stated that, if approved to begin the promulgation process by the Commission, the regulation would have to go to the Massachusetts Legislature for 60 days and would not take effect until after the close of the 2025 racing season. She stated that the amended regulations would go into effect for the 2026 racing season.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the Small Business Impact Statement and the drafts of 205 CMR 3.11 & 205 CMR 3.14 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 Secretary of the Commonwealth to begin the regulation promulgation process. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

c. [205 CMR 248.12: Account Withdrawals – Discussion and Review of Regulation Amendment and Small Business Impact Statement for authorization to begin the promulgation process by Commission](#) (1:28:11)

Staff Attorney Autumn Birarelli presented proposed amendments to 205 CMR 248.12. *A memorandum, redline of 205 CMR 248.12, and Small Business Impact Statement were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 195 through 206.*

Commissioner Hill asked if this regulation was before the Commission for a vote for initial promulgation. Attorney Birarelli stated that was correct.

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the Small Business Impact Statement and the draft of 205 CMR 248.12 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.

6. [Community Affairs Division](#) (1:42:46)

a. [Modifications to CMF Grants](#) (1:42:51)

I. City of Springfield Parking Authority 2020 Grant

Chief of the Community Affairs Division Joe Delaney presented a proposed modification of the City of Springfield's Parking Authority Grant from 2020. *A memorandum regarding the modification to the City of Springfield Parking Authority 2020 Grant was included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 210 through 211.*

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve a modification of the FY 2020 Community Mitigation Fund grant to the City of Springfield by authorizing the reallocation of \$300,000 towards funding for capital improvement costs associated with the Columbus Center parking garage 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.

II. Town of Saugus 2022 Public Safety Grant (1:47:24)

Chief Delaney presented a proposed modification to the Town of Saugus's 2022 Public Safety Grant. *A memorandum regarding the modification to the Town of Saugus 2022 Public Safety Grant was included in the Commissioners' Packet on page 209.* He noted that while the costs associated with the new project were estimated to be \$107,400, the review team recommended reallocating the total amount of \$187,000 to allow for any unanticipated expenses.

Commissioner Skinner expressed concern that the project costs were only \$107,000 and that the additional \$80,000 cushion in the reallocation might be excessive. Chief Delaney noted that these funds are not awarded up front and that they are paid out as reimbursements. Commissioner Hill stated that in reviewing local construction costs, he had seen several projects coming as much as \$60,000 over budget. He stated that he shared Commissioner Skinner's concerns but that he did not want to have the Town of Saugus have to return repeatedly to request that more funds be allocated.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve a modification of the FY 2022 Community Mitigation Fund grant to the Town of Saugus by authorizing the reallocation of \$187,000 towards funding for public safety costs associated with crosswalk beacons along the Northern Strand Community Trail 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.

III. Attorney General's Office FY2026 Grant (1:53:20)

Chief Delaney presented the proposed grant modification to the Attorney General's Office FY2026 Grant. *A memorandum regarding the modification of the Attorney General's Office FY2026 Grant was included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 207 through 208.*

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve a modification of the FY 2026 Community Mitigation Fund grant to the Attorney General's Office by authorizing an increase in the grant amount from \$259,800 to a total of \$280,400 to allow for funding for indirect costs associated with the Federal Grant Administrative costs as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. 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.

Commissioner Maynard stated that the next agenda items was to be held in executive session and that the Commission did not anticipate returning to the public meeting. He stated that he would take the agenda items out of order to discuss Commissioner updates and other business before entering the executive session.

7. Executive Session Minutes (1:58:43)

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 intended purpose for which the executive session was convened, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(4) and (7) and c. 4, § 7(26)(n): September 18, 2023; and G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and c. 4, § 7(26)(n): February 7, 2024.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session on the matter and for the reasons just articulated 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.

Chair Maynard reiterated that the meeting would end in executive session and that the Commission would not return for the public meeting session.

8. [Commissioner Updates](#) (1:57:32)

Chair Maynard stated that himself, Executive Director Dean Serpa, and Commissioner Brodeur had gone to the Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival. He explained that some grant funds were allocated towards public safety for that event. He expressed that it was amazing to see how the funds were spent and that the communities were always creative in developing ways to use the funds.

There were no further Commissioner updates.

9. [Other Business](#) (1:58:34)

Hearing no further business, the Commission entered the executive session.

Transcriber's Note: The Commission entered the executive session at 12:07 PM and did not reconvene the public meeting session.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated July 29, 2025](#)
2. [Commissioners' Packet from the July 31, 2025, meeting](#) (posted on massgaming.com)