



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: September 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 112 3711

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 Paul Brodeur

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

Chair Maynard called to order the 564th Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and four Commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Meeting Minutes](#) (00:40)

The minutes from the January 31, 2024, May 21, 2024, August 15, 2024, July 22, 2025, and August 14, 2025 public meetings were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 3 through 45.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the minutes from the following public meetings, as included in the Commissioners' Packet, subject to necessary corrections for typographical errors or other non-material matters: January 31, 2024, May 21, 2024, and August 15, 2024. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Abstain.
Chair Maynard: Aye.
The motion passed, 3-0 with one abstention.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the minutes from the following public meetings, as included in the Commissioners' Packet subject to necessary corrections for typographical errors or other non-material matters: July 22, 2025, and August 14, 2025. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.
The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

3. Legal (02:40)

a. 205 CMR 115.04: Phase 1 and new qualifier suitability determination, standards, and procedures – Discussion and Review of Regulation Amendments and Amended Small Business Impact Statement for final adoption by Commission (02:50)

Staff Attorney Autumn Birarelli presented the proposed amendments to 205 CMR 115.04 and the associated Amended Small Business Impact Statement relative to new qualifier suitability determinations. *The Amended Small Business Impact Statement and proposed draft of 205 CMR 115.04 were included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 46 through 52.*

Commissioner O'Brien noted that when this regulation was brought forward during the July 15, 2025 public meeting, there was a conversation regarding whether the proposed language would strip discretion away from the Commission. Attorney Birarelli stated that the Legal Division had discussed the issue and decided to keep the language as is. She stated that there would not be a loss of discretion in how the Commission approaches new qualifier proceedings. Interim General Counsel Justin Stempeck stated that he agreed with Attorney Birarelli's assessment and noted that holding adjudicatory hearings for new qualifier suitability proceedings allowed the Commission discretion than the Commission would have in a public hearing. Chair Maynard stated that he was satisfied with the amended language.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission approve the Amended Small Business Impact Statement and the draft of 205 CMR 115.00, specifically 205 CMR 115.04, 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 Secretary of the Commonwealth to finalize the regulation promulgation process. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

4. Racing (08:15)

- a. Plainridge Park Request to Reschedule the Cancelled Racing Days of June 24 and July 29, 2025, to September 26 and November 26, 2025

Director of Racing and Chief Veterinarian Alex Lightbown presented Plainridge Park Casino's ("PPC") request to reschedule cancelled racing days. *PPC's request to reschedule the cancelled racing days was included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 53 through 54.* Director Lightbown noted that the racing days were canceled due to heat and humidity.

Director Lightbown noted that the memorandum in the Commissioners' Packet had the wrong dates, and that the proposed new race dates were September 26, 2025 and November 26, 2025. She stated that the Racing Division recommended that the Commission approve PPC's request.

Chair Maynard noted that November 26, 2025 was late in the year and asked when the last race day was. Director Lightbown stated that the last race day was November 28, 2025.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve Plainridge Park Casino's request to reschedule the racing days previously scheduled for June 24, 2025 and July 29, 2025 to September 26 and November 26, 2025, 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 Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

5. Sports Wagering Division (11:03)

- a. Event Catalog Update – Removal of Chinese Football Association

Compliance and Operations Manager Tom Lam presented a proposed sports wagering event catalog update to remove the Chinese Football Association. *A memorandum regarding the event catalog update was included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 55 through 60.*

Manager Lam explained that wagering on the Chinese Football Association was suspended by the Commission in September 2024, and the Sports Wagering Division's independent

investigation into the league concluded in May 2025. He stated that the investigation confirmed that there were vast integrity concerns and that the Sports Wagering Division recommended permanent removal of the Chinese Football Association from the event catalog.

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission amend the Official Catalog of Events and Wagers to remove the Chinese Football Association, including but not limited to, all tiers of its men's and women's Chinese leagues, Chinese FA Cup and the Chinese National Team, 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 Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

6. Community Affairs Division (13:38)

a. Discussion regarding FY2027 Community Mitigation Fund

Chief of the Community Affairs Division Joe Delaney explained that the Community Mitigation Fund had about \$5 million to distribute for FY2027, which was approximately 25% of the funding distributed for FY2026. He stated that the Community Affairs Division was seeking guidance from the Commission on how to distribute the funds now that there would be a significant reduction in grant amounts before drafting the Community Mitigation Fund guidelines for FY27.

Chief Delaney explained that in previous years, 66% of funds went to Region A, 30% of funds went to Region B, and 4% of funds went to the Category Two area. He stated that if those percentages were used for FY27, \$3.3 million would be allocated to Region A, \$1.5 million would be allocated to Region B, and \$200,000 would be allocated to the Category Two area. He stated that the Community Affairs Division was considering moving forward with the same percentages for FY27.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that she would prefer that the Commission indicate its priorities for funding but not block anyone who is otherwise eligible for funding from applying.

Commissioner Hill stated that he felt strongly that the Community Mitigation Fund should be administered and distributed the way it had been in the past using the block grant formula.

Commissioner Brodeur stated that this was an exercise in setting expectations and that there would likely not be funding for every project. He stated that the Commission would have to determine what factors to consider in order to determine the highest and best use of the funds.

Chair Maynard stated that he wanted to set expectations that there was less funding available. He expressed support for moving forward with the same guidelines for FY27 but that the guidelines

would be reviewed going forward should funding return for the Community Mitigation Fund in future years. He stated that he wanted the Commission to consider the best projects and reserve the ability to reject some projects.

The Commission reached a consensus to use the Community Mitigation Fund distribution percentages established in FY26 for FY27.

Chief Delaney asked if the Commission wanted to keep the split of funds between regional agencies and municipalities at the same percentages as in FY26. Commissioner Hill replied that he envisioned the percentages remaining the same.

Commissioner Brodeur suggested that the language in the guidelines read as follows: “The Commission anticipates allocating funds in this fashion.” This language would allow the Commission discretion in how and where it awards funds should circumstances warrant it. Chief Delaney explained that language could be included in the Community Mitigation Fund guidelines that explains that any awards are at the discretion of the Commission.

The Commission reached a consensus to use the same percentage of funds split between the municipalities and regional agencies from FY26 in FY27. Chief Delaney stated that applying the same percentages would allocate \$363,000 for regional agencies in Region A, \$390,000 for agencies in Region B, and \$66,000 in the Category 2 area. He noted that they could split the difference in Regions A and B, giving them both \$375,000 for regional agencies.

Chief Delaney asked if the Commission wanted to make changes to municipal eligibility. He noted that the Local Casino Mitigation Advisory Committee (“LCMAC”) for Region A expressed an interest in eliminating communities from eligibility but that the LCMAC for Region B did not. Commissioner Hill stated that he did not want to change municipal eligibility or agency eligibility. Chair Maynard stated that the Commission wanted to ensure the process was equitable. The Commission reached a consensus to not eliminate the eligibility of any municipality or agency.

Chair Maynard stated that he expected that the Commission would prioritize municipalities with this last tranche of funding. Commissioner Brodeur agreed. Chief Delaney stated that all eligible municipalities and agencies will remain eligible and be put in the block grant formula with the same percentages from the previous year. He stated that if the Commission identified areas of higher priority, projects of lower priority could be eliminated.

Commissioner Brodeur stated that with the current employment trends, the workforce development grants were a high priority. Chair Maynard agreed that workforce development grants were his highest priority, followed by public safety grants. Commissioner O’Brien and Commissioner Hill agreed.

Chief Delaney stated that if the applications added up to more than the available funds, the Commission would have to decide which priorities to fund. He stated that Region A and Region B would receive approximately \$375,000 each towards regional agencies and that the Commission might want to use as much as \$300,000 of those funds for workforce development.

He stated that he would draft language for the guidelines that indicates what each agency would receive if the money was divided up as in FY26. He stated he would also draft language showing how much funding each agency would get based upon different priority levels for each grant category.

Commissioner Brodeur stated that he wanted to send a message to previous grant awardees regarding the financial reality of the funds and the Commission's highest priorities. Chief Delaney stated that he would write a memorandum regarding the Commission's priorities and how much money is available.

Chair Maynard stated that he would prefer guidelines be less rigid as the gatekeeping will occur once the Commission sees the proposed projects. Chief Delaney stated that the draft Community Mitigation Fund guidelines would be provided to the LCMACs at their September 30, 2025 meetings and that he would return to the Commission at the first meeting in October. He stated the guidelines would then be put out for public comment and return to the Commission for final approval in November. Chair Maynard requested that Chief Delaney check in with Commissioner Skinner when she became available. He reiterated that his priorities were workforce development, followed by public safety.

b. [Boston – Modifications to 2022 and 2023 Community Mitigation Fund Grants](#) (38:39)

Chief Delaney presented the City of Boston's request for modifications to its 2022 and 2023 Community Mitigation Fund grants. *The request for modifications to the Boston's Community Mitigation Fund grants was included in the Commissioners' Packet on page 76.*

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission approve the modification of the City of Boston's 2022 Public Safety Grant and 2023 Public Safety Grant by authorizing reallocation and transfer of funds in the amount of \$3,017.35 and \$42,533.14, respectively, for a total of \$45,550.49 for funding of the full time Law Enforcement Program Coordinator position within the City's Fiscal Year 2025 Block Grant Application, as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

7. [Commissioner Updates](#) (43:04)

Chair Maynard asked if there were any Commissioner updates. No updates were shared.

8. [Other Business](#) (43:11)

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

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

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated September 9, 2025](#)
2. [Commissioners' Packet from the September 11, 2025, meeting](#) (posted on massgaming.com)