

**MARYLAND LOTTERY AND GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
DECEMBER MINUTES**

DATE: December 18, 2025

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: In-Person at Maryland Lottery Headquarters
and virtual

PRESENT: Chair Everett D. Browning, Sr.
Vice Chair E. Randolph Marriner
Commissioner Ade Adebisi
Commissioner Diane Croghan
Commissioner Harold Hodges
Commissioner Nicholas Mosby
Commissioner James Stakem

John Martin, Director
Craig Lindsey, Deputy Director, Chief Operating Officer
James Butler, Assistant Deputy Director, Chief of Staff
Michael Eaton, Managing Director, Gaming
John Mooney, Managing Director, Regulatory Oversight
Paula Yocum, Managing Director, Chief Financial Officer
Solomon Ramsey, Managing Director, Administration
Seth Elkin, Managing Director, Communications
Holly Knepper, Principal Counsel, Attorney General's Office
Jennifer Tosky, Deputy Principal Counsel, Attorney General's Office
Kathy Lingo, Executive Assistant

OTHERS: Representative from Hollywood Casino Perryville
Representative from Ocean Downs Casino
Representative from Live! Casino
Representative from Rocky Gap Casino Resort
Representative from Horseshoe Casino Baltimore
Representative from MGM National Harbor
Representatives from Scientific Games
Representative from Pollard Banknote
Representative from IGT

Everett D. Browning, Sr., Chair

E. Randolph Marriner, Vice Chair; Commissioners: Ade Adebisi, Diane Croghan, Harold Hodges, Nicholas Mosby, James Stakem

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Chair Browning announced that there was a quorum established for the meeting. Also present in person were: Commissioners Adebisi, Croghan, and Stakem. Vice Chair Marriner and Commissioner Hodges were virtual. Commissioner Mosby was not present at the start of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

After establishing there was a quorum, Chair Browning called the meeting of the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to order at 9:57 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE REVISED AGENDA

Chair Browning said that the revised agenda had been circulated, and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Stakem motioned, Commissioner Adebisi seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Browning asked if there were any corrections or alterations to the Open Session minutes of the November 20, 2025. There being none, Chair Browning asked for a motion to approve the Open Session minutes from those Commission Members that were in attendance. Commissioner Stakem motioned, Commissioner Adebisi seconded, but was informed that due to his absence at the November meeting, he would need to abstain from the motion. The motion was approved by the other five Commissioners that were there present at this time, with Commissioner Adebisi abstaining.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Browning said the Consent Agenda contains:

1. Five new Instant Ticket Games
 - a. \$1 #798 *7's*
 - b. \$2 #799 *7's Doubler*
 - c. \$5 #801 *7's Tripler*
 - d. \$10 #802 *7's Multiplier*
 - e. \$20 #803 *777*
2. Consent Agreements – Regulatory Violations
 - a. Hollywood Casino – March and April 2025
 - b. Horseshoe Casino – June and July 2025
 - c. Live! Casino – June, July and August 2025
 - d. Rocky Gap Casino – August 2025
3. Consent Agreements –Sports Wagering Violations
 - a. Canton Gaming – August 2025
 - b. MD Stadium Sub-Fanatics – July 2025
4. Consent Agreements – Mobile Sports Wagering Violations
 - a. Bally's Interactive Maryland, LLC – July 2025
 - b. DraftKings – June 2025
 - c. Live! – FanDuel Sportsbook – June 2025
5. Consent Agreements – Underage Violations
 - a. Sports & Social Bethesda – Case No. 2025-09-001
 - b. Horseshoe Casino – Case No. 2025-05-006
 - c. Live! Casino – Case No. 2025-03-021 to -025

6. Gaming License Application Denials/Revocations
7. Staff Reports: Craig Lindsey, James Butler, Michael Eaton, John Mooney, Paula Yocum, Sales and Marketing, Seth Elkin, and Holly Knepper.

Chair Browning asked if any Commissioners cared to remove and discuss any items on the Consent Agenda. There were no requests. Chair Browning then asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Stakem motioned, Commissioner Adebisi seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by those in attendance.

Chair Browning then moved on to the Operator Reports.

OPERATOR REPORTS

Rocky Gap Casino

Mr. Brian Kurtz, General Manager, reported that revenue was up 5.1%, and slot machine revenue was up 8%, primarily due to an increase in coin-in up about 12%, with slightly less hold year-over-year. Table game revenue was down \$64,000 with a decrease in drop, but a better hold year-over-year. The payday progressive is up over \$250,000. Visitation at the property was softer from a retail cash perspective and was down with softness due to lower travel. The mid and higher tiers showed growth year-over-year. The main reason for the decline was due to the government shutdown and macroeconomics. The casino is happy with the overall growth in slots.

At 10:03 a.m., during Mr. Kurtz's report, Commissioner Mosby arrived to the meeting.

Mr. Kurtz said that Rocky Gap had several marketing promotions. The casino had employee appreciation days focusing on the local railroad team. Employees that came in showed badges and received discounts at various outlets. There were several shows in November at the casino. In the community, the casino concluded the collection for the Western Maryland Food Bank with almost 800 items. In December, Rocky Gap participated in the Toys for Tots. The internal Sunshine Fund assisted several team members this month. The MBE compliance rate exceeded 17% and is currently at 30%. Mr. Kurtz thanked Gerald Stinnett and the Maryland DC Minority Companies Association for the invitation to attend the Live! Casino event, where they were able to get new potential vendors. There are currently 265 licensed team members, and 369 overall. From a licensing perspective 82% of those employees are full-time equivalents. Gift cards were distributed to team members for the holiday, and the casino continues to help team members in need through the Sunshine Fund.

Hollywood Casino Perryville

Ms. Amy Brennan, General Manager, reported that November gross gaming revenue was down 7.2%, revenue was down in slots, poker and sportsbook, but up in table games. From a year-to-date perspective, gross gaming revenue was down 4.2%. With the wiring project, half of the machines were down from August 11 through December 11. Ms. Brennan took a moment to thank Michael Eaton and his team for their help during that process. There were several promotions at the casino in November, and the Payday Progressive did not hit so the amount for December, when there is a guaranteed winner, is \$20,000. In the community, the casino held a Red Cross blood drive with 33 team members and guests participating. Hollywood Casino did a Toys for Tots drive as a guest promotion. Donations were made to several charities. There is a program across properties entitled Penn Women that give women within the organization an opportunity to move up through the organization, and do charity events. Hollywood Casino packed 50 bags for female service members. The team members were treated to a buffet for the holiday. The casino also had an internal toy drive for team members and their families. There are currently 30 open positions, which is approximately 10% of the staff. The billing issue from October was resolved and MBE spend for November was 45%. The total year-to-date is 15%. Ms. Brennan thanked Gerald Stinnett with his help on MBEs.

Ocean Downs Casino

Ms. Bobbi Jones, General Manager, reported that November net gaming revenue was down 1.9%, sports wagering handle was down 15% year-over-year. There were several factors that contributed, including the government shutdown. There were several promotions and live entertainment in November. The Veteran's Day Free Play event had great attendance. November birthday team members were given cakes. Team members were provided through the Sunshine Fund \$30 Aldi gift cards, and were provided Thanksgiving dinner. In the community, the Ways of Giving continued in November with almost a \$4,000 donation made to the Assateague Coastal Trust. MBE spend in November was 8.17%, and the casino is at 9.4% year-to-date, which is 3.6% higher than last year. At the beginning of December, the casino had a Ready Set Grow Event that had a great turnout, and the casino is working on getting more local MBEs registered. The local chamber worked with the Salisbury chamber on an event for local veteran women to sign up and register with the State.

Live! Casino

Mr. Max Fisher, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, reported that November gaming revenue was down 5.1% year-over-year, with slot revenue down, and table game revenue was a story of hold. There was growth year-over-year in both poker and retail sportsbook. Live! Casino had several events in November. The casino opened the Chairman's Lounge for the top tier guests. There were several giveaways and shows at the casino. Live! Casino held tournaments across its properties. Team members were given turkeys and meal kits in November. In the community, the casino hosted the Baltimore Washington Medical Center 60th Anniversary Gala. The casino donated 300 turkeys to local food banks, and hosted the Veteran Appreciation Breakfast, giving a check for \$116,000 to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund. MBE spend was 28.9%, and the casino continues finding ways to grow that. The MWMCA Event had a strong turnout and the casino continues to connect vendors together to grow that business.

Horseshoe Casino

Mr. James Genail, General Manager, reported that revenue increased 3.4% year-over-year, the property posted strong coin-in growth up 6.1% in total volume compared to prior year. Table game drop was flat, ETG had a 9.5% growth in volume. Restaurant food sales were up 1.6%, and beverage sales grew 5.2%, with a combined 13.8% growth in November. There were several shows at the casino in November, local bands continue every Friday. MBE spend is 30.4% year-to-date. Staffing at the casino continues to grow, up 8.5% year-over-year.

Chair Browning thanked Mr. Genail for the report and welcomed him. He said the relationship between casinos and the Commission is a partnership, and to reach out if help is needed.

MGM National Harbor

Mr. Jeffrey Shrader, Vice President, General Counsel, reported that November was a return to form. With the end of the government shutdown there was strong admission at the casino, with a 3% increase in rated days. Gaming revenue was up 5% year-over-year. Slot revenue was relatively flat, table game revenue was up 16%, Poker revenue was up 12%, and Sportsbook was down writing 30,000 tickets compared to 40,000 tickets in 2024. December is expected to finish strong, with a big New Year's Eve event. There was strong programming in November. The casino had several gift giveaways in November that drew in an additional 500 guests per week. Entertainment at the casino in November included music, comedy, and hip hop. Team members were active in community, assembling meal kits for Nourish Now to deliver to local churches. MBE spend was 20%, spread over 63 companies. MGM National Harbor has hosted, participated and attended several supplier diversity events throughout the DC area.

Vice Chair Marriner thanked Mr. Shrader for the report and said he read a responsible gaming article yesterday from former Lottery Director Stephen Martino that mentioned MGM National Harbor is at the forefront taking responsible gaming seriously. Mr. Shrader said the casino recently had an event for staff regarding responsible gaming awareness.

Chair Browning announced that going forward into next year, the casino reports will be done once a quarter, starting in January with Hollywood and Horseshoe Casino. In February Ocean Downs Casino and Live! Casino will report, and in March, Rocky Gap Casino and MGM National Harbor will report.

Chair Browning then moved on to the Vendor Reports.

VENDOR REPORTS

Scientific Games (SG)

Chair Browning asked that before Mr. Jeff Hale, General Manager, if he could provide an explanation of the services that SG provides prior to giving his report. Mr. Hale stated that SciGames is the central system vendor for MLGCA. Everything from draw games, Powerball, Keno, RaceTrax go through SG. They support the back office with scratch tickets and validations that go through the system and support Fast Play games. There are currently 85 employees in the State that support MLGCA. Maryland has 7,000 terminals and 4,300 retailers supported. SG is also the secondary scratch ticket provider for the State of Maryland. Mr. Hale then continued with his report and stated that the Toys for Tots drive had concluded and the toys were delivered to Fox 45 on air. The current Powerball is \$1.5 Billion, doing everything to support that in the system. On November 3, the raffle game started with a \$20 ticket with a limit of 325,000 tickets, with a prize of \$1 million. The rollout of debit devices on counter terminals will be 200 by the end of the year. There will be four Fast Play games in January, that are a brand-new style of Fast Play games.

Pollard Banknote (Pollard)

Chair Browning asked Mr. Travis Priest, Director, Lottery Marketing, to explain the support services that Pollard provides. Mr. Priest said that Pollard is the primary print supplier for scratch off tickets to MLGCA with tickets ranging from \$1 to \$50, which are produced in facilities in the United States and Canada. Mr. Priest then reported that since its last report Pollard has put ten scratch offs into production, with the same amount launched in that time. Overall year-to-date scratch game sales through 23 weeks of Fiscal Year 2026, total revenue is at \$449.6 million up \$13.3 million from last year. Outside of Maryland jurisdictions have a growth rate of -.027% while Maryland is up 3%. MBE spend is 17.7%, reflective of spending by a diverse array of supplied inputs ranging from paper stock, printing, freight and intellectual property services. MLGCA staff did a press check at the facility in Michigan last week to review the new \$50 scratch off.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to know if, going in the new year, Pollard had any heightened security enhancements being made to avoid hacking issues that may arise, such as scams to the system. Mr. Priest said IT teams are invested in security with a desire to mitigate those risks and ensure the integrity of the system, which is definitely a challenge. Pollard, at the corporate level and jurisdiction level, all customers that Pollard services globally, which is over 60 internationally Pollard takes all of those security risks seriously. Pollard invests to ensure product integrity, with secure transfer of data between systems, and all points of risk in between, are always evaluated to identify potential security gaps. Pollard is resilient in that regard, and looking toward the future Pollard is maintaining that posture to mitigate any threats. It is an ongoing investment, and it is an integrity-based system where trust is paramount.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to know to what extent Pollard is integrating AI technology to keep hackers at bay. Mr. Priest said there is an adoption curve, early adopted tools are internal for communication efforts, with collaborative tools to streamline business practices. For deliverables Pollard ships scratch

games, there are tools being evaluated that will help artists and the creative team more efficiently to develop the specs of those games. Those tools are in early development stages and have not been fully rolled out to any one customer. They are in a Beta stage, and are offline and being evaluated independently of being integrated in customer works. They are being evaluated for work efficiencies, so when efficiencies are identified, Pollard can pass that efficiency on.

International Game Technology (IGT)

Chair Browning asked that before Ms. Carmen Vegas, Site Manager, to provide a synopsis of the services provided by IGT. Ms. Vegas said that IGT is the central system providers on the casino side and support the 11,000 slot machines in the State of Maryland. She then reported that IGT is focusing on the end of year system maintenance, disaster recovery process running out of the back of the data center. In addition, IGT performed routine maintenance including vulnerability patching and delivered the annual service batch. Overall, the system remains stable, and operationally all is well.

Commissioner Hodges asked if IGT found any issues that need looking at to patch up or improve upon going forward? Ms. Vegas said IGT constantly evaluates the system, looking for ways to streamline and improve. IGT runs a static environment and does not implement much change as that can introduce risks. IGT delivers an enhancement service batch annually that typically covers any issues identified throughout the year, whether in this market or other jurisdictions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director's Report — **John Martin, Director**

Director John Martin wished everyone happy holidays, especially the lottery players on the positive response in November which exceeded the year-over-year sales primarily on the strength of the growing Powerball jackpot and the \$20 holiday raffle. He thanked Mr. Hale for promoting both of those activities. Director Martin said that at this time of year, holiday scratch offs are key, there is a raffle to win \$1 million and the growing Powerball jackpot, which is now \$1.5 billion, with a cash value of \$686.5 million. If the winner of the Powerball is a Maryland resident, the State of Maryland would receive \$65.2 million in Maryland taxes. This jackpot is now the 5th largest jackpot in Powerball history. This is the second time in Powerball history there were back-to-back billion-dollar jackpots. On November 6 of this year, the \$1.87 billion jackpot was won in Missouri and Texas. Director Martin reminded everyone to play and gift responsibly. Looking forward to the casino partners' reporting on November, year-over-year was fairly flat up .4%, down 1.7% in casino revenue, and down 1.2% in casino contributions year-to-date. Legislation is being put in place in 2026, thanks to IRS guidelines changing the threshold for reporting slot machine jackpots from \$1,200 to \$2,000. For players who choose to play slots, it is a big timesaver, and is an efficient operation for casino partners, and makes things easier for players. A key part of that is it will now be adjusted for inflation on an annual basis, making reporting easier for all. November was the best month ever for sports wagering with \$19 million in contributions to the State on a handle of over \$720 million, paying over \$622 million in prizes. Hold was 13.5%. Director Martin noted that the entire country did well, but Maryland did very well. Tracking year-to-date, not even halfway through the Fiscal Year, MLGCA is at nearly \$63 million in contributions to the State, with the primary beneficiary being Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund on the sports wagering side. This brings the hold percentage to 11.7%, a very strong number going into the second half of the Fiscal Year.

As previously noted by the casinos and vendors, November was a very charitable month with contributions to Toys for Tots, a food drive, and the Maryland Charity Campaign. Director Martin noted the enthusiasm by MLGCA employees with a great turn out for decorating the offices for the holidays. He said it bodes well showing a hard-working group on both the Lottery and Gaming sides. It has been a good year and MLGCA is looking for it to continue.

Commissioner Hodges said last month there was an issue with a mistake by the office on a form. He said Director Martin's answer was that the office was working to control improvement. Commissioner Hodges wanted to know if that had happened yet and how it was going? Director Martin said there were two parts, MLGCA had gone to the Board of Public Works (BPW) for approval to make the correction of the agenda item. The administrative part was addressed. In response to the bigger question, in place practices have been implemented at several levels, including the procurement unit is working closer in making sure to get agreement on what needs to be identified with a compilation to go to BPW, making sure to have proper forms completed accurately by several staff. Executive must now sign off on all paperwork that is leaving the building to go to BPW. This has been addressed in the short term with practice in place for years to come.

Commissioner Hodges suggested adding two things. To definitely maintain a checklist, and to have an SOP in place going forward so no auditing issues happen going forward.

Chair Browning thanked Director Martin and his entire team saying that the last year had been very interesting, and he appreciated MLGCA's professionalism and ability to pivot quickly. He also thanked Director Martin for reporting to BPW yesterday.

Chair Browning said that there had been a special session this week. The regular session is starting up in January and to help with tracking of current Bills, the Director of Policy and Legislation, Ms. Jennifer Beskid, would give an update on legislation impacting the Agency.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Policy and Legislation — **Jennifer Beskid, Director**

Ms. Beskid provided a legislative update. The 2025 Session ended with the Governor issuing a policy veto of 29 bills and a technical veto of one bill, for 30 vetoes. On Tuesday, December 16, 2025, the Maryland General Assembly convened for a Special Session during which they elected a new Speaker of the House, Joseline Peña-Melnyk, a Democrat from District 21 - Prince Georges and Anne Arundel Counties and overturned 19 of the Governor's vetoes, one of which impacted the Lottery.

Following her election, Speaker Peña-Melnyk informed the members of the House that she was announcing the creation of a 7th House committee, by splitting the Health and Government Operations Committee in two, the Health Committee and the Government Operations Committee. Currently, there is not a chair or vice chair assigned to the Government Operations Committee and the Agency does not know if our budget hearing will be impacted. Currently, the majority of our bills are heard in the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. There were not any significant changes on the Senate side of the legislature that would significantly impact the Agency.

The General Assembly overturned the veto of House Bill 328, State Lottery – Instant Ticket Lottery Machines – Veterans' and Fraternal Organizations. This bill impacted State Government Article 9-112 and the following changes resulted from the bill:

1. Fraternal Organizations are defined as nonprofit organizations that are tax exempt and organized as a fraternal or sororal organization under 501(C)(7) or 501(C)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code; own or leases a property; has a membership of at least 300 active members and has been located in a county at least 5 years before the date of the application are eligible for a license to operate Instant Ticket Lottery Machines - ITLMs.
2. Generally, the organization must also be independent of a nationwide fraternity or sorority and there are prohibitions for fraternities and sororities operating in high schools or on college campuses that cater to students.

Differences Between the Organizations

Veterans' Organizations

1. Five (5) ITLMs (maximum)
2. Retain 50% of the net proceeds.
3. Credit the remaining net proceeds from the sale of tickets from the ITLMs to the State Lottery Fund.

Fraternal Organizations

1. Three (3) ITLMs (maximum)
2. Retain 25% of the net proceeds and the law specifies what those may be used for
3. Remit the remainder to MLGCA.

The Agency is required to ensure that the element of chance in the conduct of the gaming through the ITLMs is CONTAINED wholly within the PREDETERMINED instant lottery ticket, and that player enhancements within an ITLM may not affect the element of chance. This changes the ticket from being pre-printed and authorizes a print-on-the-fly option.

2026 Session

The Agency has submitted three Departmental bills for consideration through the Governor's Legislative Office. Once approved, the Governor's Legislative Office (GLO) seeks sponsors for the bills. The Agency has not been informed whether our submitted bills have been sponsored yet. The bills include:

- Gaming – Prohibition on Interactive Games and Revenue from Illegal Markets
- Sports Wagering Proceeds – Promotional Play Exclusion – Limitation
- Video Lottery Facility Payouts – Intercepts for Restitution Payments, Child Support Payments, and Debts Owed to the State

Pre-filed Bills

To date, the Agency has received two pre-filed bills from a Delegate pertaining to gambling and technology. The specific content of these bills is confidential. Information that can be shared at this time included that the first bill would enable the Commission to authorize or collaborate with research entities to study the use of technology to protect individuals from various technological measures in an effort to provide a safer gaming experience and prevent violations of existing regulations and underage gaming. The second bill would explore the use of Geofencing technology to enforce legal and regulatory requirements by implementing pilot programs at two in-state universities.

The bills are currently being reviewed by the Agency's subject matter experts to determine potential fiscal and operational impacts. Should impacts be identified, this information will be shared with the bill sponsor to provide time for the sponsor to make any amendment to the bill.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to know, going back to government committee set up, if the idea was laid out and what focal points will be for review. How is it handled? Ms. Beskid said the Agency is first aware at the start of the Session. The Agency has not been provided with the information at this time.

Commissioner Hodges said the fraternal organizations maintain part of profits vs. veterans, and wanted to know why? Ms. Beskid said that MLGCA did not draft the Bill and do not know the intent. Commissioner Hodges said he was wondering the impact.

Commissioner Stakem stated he has attended MACO for years and thanked Ms. Beskid and James Butler for the work done regarding legislation.

Chair Browning said that the job as the Commission is to enforce laws, so knowing what is happening helps. He asked that going forward when agency responds back to requests, MLGCA lets the Commission know, confidentially, as the Commission receives calls asking why things are being done and the team needs to defend decisions made. He asked when the 2026 Legislative Session will begin. Ms. Beskid said January 4, 2026.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no need for a closed session.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Chair Browning announced the next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in person at Lottery Headquarters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Browning adjourned the meeting at 10.55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


John Martin
Director