

Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency



Wes Moore, Governor • John Martin, Director

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DATE OF MEETING: March 26, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: **Update -Upcoming Sports Wagering License Renewals
Authority to Apply an Alternative Licensing Standard;
States with Similar and Adequate Safeguards**

PRESENTER: John Mooney, Managing Director
Regulatory Oversight

ISSUE SUMMARY: The Commission may establish an abbreviated licensing process for a sports wagering license applicant who holds a valid license in Maryland or another state, if the Commission determines that the licensing standards of the issuing agency are comprehensive and thorough, and provide similar and adequate safeguards to those in the Sports Wagering Law. State Gov't Art., § 9-1E-05(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. The Commission may waive some or all licensing requirements, except those that relate to minority business enterprise participation goals and procedures established under SG § 9-1E-07; or is a requirement of the Sports Wagering Application Review Commission. SG, § 9-1E-05(c). The Commission's regulations implement this provision of the Sports Wagering Law, and establish a process by which the Commission may apply an alternative licensing standard to an applicant, waive some or all licensing requirements. COMAR 36.10.02.12.

On October 6, 2021, the Commission unanimously approved 16 states with acceptable sports wagering license standards: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and Wisconsin. Additionally, on October 6, 2021, the Commission delegated to Staff the authority to decide whether to apply alternative licensing standards to a sports wagering license applicant who requests they be applied. If a request for application for alternative licensing standards is granted the applicant may be qualified for a license before the Agency conducts a full background investigation. The Agency will conduct a full background investigation in due course.

Staff is informing the Commission that in accordance with the approved delegation from October 6, 2021, to apply alternative licensing standards to sports wagering applicants, a number of sports wagering license renewals that are becoming due at or near the same time will likely be presented to the Commission applying alternative licensing standards.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED/REQUESTED:

Discussion and provide any clarification necessary regarding the upcoming sports wagering license renewals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: No action is necessary.