



# Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission

Wes Moore, Governor

Montgomery Park Business Center  
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 300  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Tel: 410-230-8800  
TTY users call Maryland Relay  
[www.mdlottery.com](http://www.mdlottery.com)  
[www.mdgaming.com](http://www.mdgaming.com)

## MARYLAND LOTTERY AND GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION APRIL MINUTES

DATE: April 23, 2026

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 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  
Seth Elkin, Managing Director, Communications  
Solomon Ramsey, Managing Director, Administration  
Holly Knepper, Principal Counsel, Attorney General's Office  
Jennifer Tosky, Deputy Principal Counsel, Attorney General's Office  
Jennifer Beskid, Director, Policy and Legislation  
Kathy Lingo, Executive Assistant

OTHERS: Amy Brennan, General Manager, Hollywood Casino Perryville  
James Genail, General Manager, Horseshoe Casino Baltimore  
Gerald Stinnett, MBE Compliance Manager, OSBA

**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: Vice Chair Marriner and Commissioners Adebisi, Hodges, Mosby and Stakem. Commissioner Croghan was absent.

## **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 10:00 a.m.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Browning said that the agenda had been circulated and asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Stakem motioned, Commissioner Mosby 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 March 26, 2026. There being none, Chair Browning asked for a motion to approve the Open Session minutes. Vice Chair Marriner motioned, Commissioner Stakem seconded, and the motion was approved by the four Commissioners in attendance that were present at the March 26 meeting. Commissioners Adebisi and Hodges abstained as they were not present at the March Commission Meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Browning said the Consent Agenda contains:

1. New Instant Ticket Games
  - a. \$5 #816 *Deluxe Crossword 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*
  - b. \$5 #817 *Hello Money!*
  - c. \$10 #818 *10X Cash*
  - d. \$30 #819 *30X Cash*
2. Gaming License Application Denials/Revocations
3. License Revocation Reversal
4. Request for Removal from the Mandatory Exclusion List
5. Lottery Retailer License Revocations
6. Staff Reports: Craig Lindsey, James Butler, Michael Eaton, John Mooney, Paula Yocum, Seth Elkin, Solomon Ramsey, Sales and Marketing, 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. Vice Chair Marriner motioned, Commissioner Mosby seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Browning then introduced Gerald Stinnett, MBE Compliance Manager for the Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs (OSBA).

## **OFFICE OF SMALL, MINORITY & WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS REPORT**

Mr. Gerald Stinnett, MBE Compliance Manager, presented a PowerPoint regarding video lottery terminal facilities and MBE Participation Compliance Review for Hollywood Casino and Horseshoe Casino. He reviewed MBE participation for the first quarter of calendar year 2026 for Hollywood and Horseshoe Casinos. Mr. Stinnett provided the vendor information broken down by services, jurisdiction and MBE classification for both casinos.

Commissioner Hodges said he noted the casinos use a lot of MBEs that seem to be from out-of-state. Commissioner Hodges said he will ask later about that once Mr. Stinnett has completed the presentation. Mr. Stinnett noted Horseshoe Casino had some out-of-state and will address it after the presentation.

Mr. Stinnett then provided dates for various completed and upcoming Outreach events for 2026, noting that the Networking events are going well.

Following the presentation, Mr. Stinnett addressed the out-of-state vendors. He explained that often the vendors used in Maryland are used for all the casino's properties in other states as well, so the casino will use that same particular vendor in Maryland as well.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to know why more aggressive efforts are not made to have more Maryland vendors. He noted he did not see any Chambers of Commerce throughout the different counties, and wanted to know if more effort can be focused on that? Mr. Stinnett said his focus does include that, but at the most recent outreach event at MGM, there was a conflict with the date and time, and the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development had three other MBE events that same day. When other events are planned in the future, OSBA will be sure to reach out to local Chambers and Economic Development so that they can attend. It will be reflected in the next events that OSBA does.

Commissioner Adebisi commended Mr. Stinnett on listening to ideas from the Commission and bringing answers to those requests today. It clarifies MBE vendors participating, and the visibility helps the Commission understand how the MBEs are used.

Mr. Stinnett said Hollywood Casino will be using an HVAC MBE company in Harford County, which is local vendor for them. Commissioner Adebisi said when the casinos hire MBE vendors, not only is the quality of the project good for today, but it helps in building experience and capacity for the vendor. Consideration should be to understand what goods and services the MBEs are being used for.

Commissioner Mosby thanked Mr. Stinnett for the information noting that it provides a lot more understanding of the momentum and where MBEs are going. He recommended pushing operators to unbundle larger projects for more opportunities and being intentional in unbundling some of the larger projects.

Chair Browning thanked Mr. Stinnett for the information provided. He requested that Mr. Stinnett provide the Commission with dates and times for all upcoming events so some of the Commissioners can attend them, provided Mr. Stinnett believes that their attendance at events would help. Chair Browning said it is important to the Commission and to the State to find unique ways to get local businesses to partner with the casinos. Understanding and bringing business to the casinos is important.

Chair Browning then moved on to the Operator Reports for Hollywood Casino and Horseshoe Casino.

## **OPERATOR REPORTS**

### **Hollywood Casino Perryville**

Ms. Amy Brennan, General Manager, reported that gross gaming revenue was down 3% in the first quarter. Revenue decreased in slots and poker but was up in table games and sportsbook. The casino had several events, promotions and gift giveaways in the first quarter. The progressive payday hit in March for \$30,000 and has been reset to \$10,000. The casino donated \$14,000 spread across multiple charities in the first quarter, with \$9,000 of the donations going to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund. Five team members were awarded Team Member of the Year awards at the Great Wolf Lodge. Hollywood Casino celebrated Maryland Day in March and had two educational series for Black History Month and Women's History Month. Currently, there are 25 job openings with retention up and turnover down. The casino is thrilled about its MBE results. Ms. Brennan noted that the casino would like to have all of its vendors be in-state but it does not have in-state vendors available to come to Perryville. The casino hired a local MBE HVAC company to do work.

Ms. Brennan then moved on to the pre-questions provided by the Commission in advance of the meeting. She started with the responsible gaming practices of the casino. Ms. Brennan said there is signage everywhere,

especially in high touch points. All promotional materials, all advertisements, and social media pages have messages, as well as having a table set up in the front of the house for guests to understand resources. There is also a table in the back of house for team members during Responsible Gaming month with staff from the Maryland Center for Excellence on Problem Gambling available to speak with. Starting this year, all patrons are carded at the entrances regardless of their appearance. There has been a slight uptick in excluded patrons trying to get in. The casino has instituted a responsible alcohol service policy of 2 drinks per hour. If team members violate this policy by serving more than 2 drinks to a patron in an hour, they are required to repeat this training. The casino monitors for unattended minors and has a security vehicle monitoring the parking lot.

From a team perspective, during Responsible Gaming month, the casino has educational programs and brings out Reggie, the Responsible Gaming Turtle. There are tables in the team member dining room and up front to get literature on RG. Quarterly, HR and Compliance select team members to give one the spot quizzes about responsible gambling, and if they get answers incorrect, they are required to redo their training. New hires attend training when they start, and all team members attend it once a year.

Commissioner Hodges wants to know if the casino has an event that identifies problem gamblers. Ms. Brennan said they did not, but there is help on the floor for those that ask for help. Commissioner Hodges asked if the casino could track data on people who gamble, looking at their trends and spikes, such as some type of marker? Ms. Brennan said only if they are using a rewards card, but not all guests use a card. Over spending for one person might not be considered over spending for someone else. It is hard to assess because the casino does not know each guest's financial situation. Commissioner Hodges said Ms. Brennan had answered his second question about having educational programs for patrons once they are identified but was wondering if they had something other than something funny like Reggie the Responsible Gaming Turtle.

Chair Browning asked whether when the casino looks at a player's credit when it extends credit, if the casino sees whether a person may be pushing their limit, and whether that is part of Responsible Gaming program? Ms. Brennan said some is, but it is also separate. There is an approval process for when someone is being extended credit by the casino. The casino does not know what is in people's bank accounts, even when running a credit report; it only gives a general average. The casino's credit limits are small, and much smaller than what is available on the average of the person's account. For instance, Hollywood Casino would never extend credit of over \$10,000 for an account that has \$10,000 in it.

Chair Browning said RG programs are voluntary for most individuals. Looking at gambling as an addiction, there are other addictions that have an opportunity for family members to make recommendations and ask what they can do. Chair Browning suggested that down the line the casino may want to work with the Commission where family members flag something. It is done in other problem areas where family members affected may seek help for the family member with the apparent problem. The family members could then get help for the person spending too much at the casino, or identify other avenues and have tools available to get them on the VEP list. Ms. Brennan said the Center for Excellence on Responsible Gaming has help and support for family members. She said she is not an addiction expert. This is a very serious topic and tough, and placement on the VEP list does not exist other than if a person with the problem is asking for help and asks to be placed on it.

Commissioner Adebisi asked why it is a two-drink maximum per hour? Ms. Brennan said in general it depends on a person's sex, weight and size on when they are considered inebriated. However, in general, over two drinks an hour is over what is considered the legal limit. The casino wants to make sure patrons have not consumed too much alcohol, that they are making sound decisions and their brain is functioning with good judgment. The maximum gives the casino something to measure and monitor.

Commissioner Adebisi wanted to know if this was an industry standard? Ms. Brennan said no, it is a Hollywood Casino Perryville standard. There are rules on when someone is over the legal limit which involves a lot of factors; the casino uses that average number. Commissioner Adebisi commended her and said it was very responsible. Ms. Brennan noted that some customers do not like it, but it is important for the casino to be responsible.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to suggest that the casino reallocate some funds and have additional events just for educating problem gamblers they may have. He said the casino may not want clientele to go belly up, so they should manage the customers, reallocate funds to problem gamblers on an educational basis to show the casino is being proactive. Ms. Brennan said the casino did host a table at the entrance that was educational.

Ms. Brennan then addressed the second item on suggestions and ideas for communication. She said personally at the property level or the Agency level, she does not have communication challenges. The only suggestion she had is that no Commissioner email address is listed on the website, and suggested maybe they could be added, and maybe organizational charts for duties and responsibilities. She said the casinos are not sure who to contact for each particular issue or item. Maybe having a share point where casinos can submit changes like slot machine changes that would normally go to a group of people, or a group email address, some sort of way to notify more than one person would help. Even having a share-point mechanism where operators can put a repository for information would help them.

Chair Browning said that was a great suggestion. Sharing state email addresses should not be a problem. He said he will make sure the Agency looks into these suggestions. He told Ms. Brennan that there is an organizational chart published on the website and she can reach out to the Director. He wanted to know if there are any challenges with the casino or industry that the Commission should be aware of? Ms. Brennan said the casino is truly focusing on hiring. Hiring is not anything done through the Commission, but hiring is challenging particularly for entry level positions. Everyone is uncertain about the economy. There is no data, but that is probably part of the struggle. People do not want to let go of their discretionary spending if the economy is not doing well, which impacts casinos.

Commissioner Hodges wanted Ms. Brennan to clarify that hiring is challenging because of the concern of whether people are going to continue spending their discretionary income, and as such, Hollywood Casino and the other casinos probably will not hire any time soon. Ms. Brennan clarified by noting that hiring is a challenge because not enough people want to work for the jobs that the casino has open, and that has nothing to do with the economy. It is finding people who are willing to work at a 24-hour business, so it is challenging because new people get the harder shifts to start. Business challenges have to do with uncertainty in the current economic environment. The casino's guests are people that go out to eat and see a movie, but those people are not spending as much of their spare money because of rising cost of gas and food.

Commissioner Hodges asked if the casino could not find available people after the reduction in force ("RIF") last year? Ms. Brennan said no, the casino cannot attract applicants because the positions they have available are a different pay range. The most difficult positions to fill are the entry level positions that pay minimum wage, like cashiers, and then having to work every Friday and Saturday night.

Chair Browning thanked Ms. Brennan for keeping Maryland people in the north staying in Maryland.

### **Horseshoe Casino**

Mr. James Genail, General Manager, reported that quarter one of the calendar year gaming revenues were down 3.6% year-over-year, due in part to being closed for 48 hours for a snowstorm. There has been slot coin-in growth up 2.6%, and table game drop growth up 3% year-over-year. ETGs saw a decline in volume of almost 10% year-over-year. Food sales were down 22% year-over-year, due in part of the Gordon Ramsey Steak House being closed for 2½ weeks due to refrigeration issues. The casino held several marketing promotions and entertainment in the first quarter of the year.

MBE spend finished at 15%, up 7% year-over-year, with 14 vendors this quarter up from 12 in the last quarter. Of those 14 vendors, 8 are from Maryland. The casino continues to hire staff in various positions; there are currently 15 full-time and 25 part-time positions open. The casino makes donations to Paul's Place and the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

Chair Browning recognized the casino is improving on MBEs, but if there is one place to find MBEs, they can find vendors right here in Baltimore City. He said if the casino needs help, please let the Commission know so it can help the casino find opportunities there. Chair Browning said he appreciates the casino's efforts, but their location should be leading in MBE opportunities. Mr. Genail said with new department heads in marketing and finance, it has become a priority to locate MBE vendors. As Mr. Stinnett noted, at the end of July, Horseshoe Casino will be having an MBE event, and the casino will get better by hosting and participating in this event.

The casino has a Responsible Gaming Ambassador Program with on property resources for guests and

employees. It is open to any supervisor and above position. The program assists with helping people get connected to resources. There are currently 24 RG Ambassadors on the property. The next RG training will be in September which is Responsible Gaming Education Month.

As far as enforcement of self-exclusion and self-restriction, the casino uses enhanced technology, facial recognition, Veridocs and card reader in to support accurate enforcement of Maryland's Self-Exclusion program. When patrons choose to exclude in Maryland, this means that they cannot play at any Caesars properties in any other states. Regarding underage gaming prevention, Horseshoe Casino does 100% ID checks, all patrons must present an ID. Security officers have received training on how to spot fake IDs. On property, there was a back of house outreach session during Problem Gaming Awareness month that featured the University of Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gaming, the Parent's Place, and Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency. There was a responsible gaming table set up in the employee dining room for the entire month providing staff with brochures, training materials, and talking points to share with patrons, as well as brochures and signage posted throughout the property in the front and back of house year-round for employees and guests.

As far as patron limits and restrictions, guests may request limits to time spent gaming, casino credit, check cashing privileges, promotional communications, spending deposits or losses. The property does not cash payroll, unemployment or social service checks reinforcing that gaming should be a discretionary entertainment. On January 13, the casino donated over \$58,000 to the Maryland Council on Problem Gaming, supporting statewide prevention, education and treatment. The casino maintains ongoing relationships with local organizations, bringing community awareness and employee training. Any team members can interact with guests to complete mandatory annual responsible gaming training to ensure ongoing awareness, policies, procedures, indicators and red flags. There are annual refreshers reinforcing consistency in compliance and ability to identify escalations.

Commissioner Hodges said it looked like they had a great job training staff to manage problem gamblers. He asked if there is a way to identify problem gamblers. Outside of patrons self-identifying as needing help, Mr. Genail said the casino looks for signs of something that has been learned in the training, such as someone being highly emotional, or sweating, then the casino will check on them. The data standpoint is hard to tell.

Commissioner Hodges asked, as far as educational programs, do they have any RG programs that work with problem gamblers? Mr. Genail asked if he meant team members identifying them? He said the only program that came to mind was someone behaving erratically, emotional, or perceived to be unreasonable. It can be a subjective standard.

Commissioner Hodges asked Mr. Genail to speak about the casino's exclusion program. Mr. Genail wanted to confirm with Commissioner Hodges what he meant regarding that information is shared state-to-state. Commissioner Hodges asked if he shared information with other casinos? Mr. Genail said yes, information is shared with other Caesars properties. If someone is excluded from one state, their information will be entered in a database and will not be allowed in any of the other Caesars' casinos in other states. Commissioner Hodges asked if they share with other casino properties or just Caesars properties. Mr. Genail said just Caesars properties across other states, but the state ban would be shared.

Chair Browning asked how that works if someone is on the list, and how the Caesars' list can be added to the State's list and shared with the other casinos in the State to protect problem gamblers from just going down the street to a different Maryland casino? Chair Browning said that he understands that if the player drives to another state, then there is nothing that can be done, but there could be a conversation about merging information for all of Maryland's casinos of individual's who voluntarily excluded from other properties.

Chair Browning said that the words "problem" versus "responsible" gaming seem interchangeable. He wanted to know if those terms mean the same thing in the industry, or if they are two different terms since they are celebrated in two separate months. Mr. Genail said the problem is when it is affecting the aspects of the gambler's life. Whether it is person's personal life, work life, or the ability to pay bills, it becomes a problem at that point. The terms are related but different. Responsible Gaming Month helps the team members to understand their responsibility in helping problem gamblers. Chair Browning said it is a matter of understanding the terms as the Commission does not have the industry knowledge with the definition of the words.

Chair Browning wanted to know if there are any challenges locally or industry wide that the Commission should

be aware of, or in which the Commission's help may be needed? Mr. Genail said the State is still new to him. He said as Ms. Brennan noted, hiring is challenging especially at the entry-level pay point. It can make it difficult to open outlets to serve food and drinks.

Commissioner Hodges said the casino should reallocate funds to proactively work with problem gamblers. He said it is simple finance, do not risk more than you can afford to lose. Commissioner Hodges noted that it goes beyond a simple placard and recommended that the casino be more proactive on this issue. Mr. Genail thanked him for the feedback.

Chair Browning thanked Mr. Genail for his report. He said the intention and action Horseshoe Casino has made to be a part of Baltimore City will help to continue growing in that manner, and to be a safe and productive staple of downtown Baltimore.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

Director Martin took a moment to acknowledge the Agency recognizing Administrative Professionals Day and gave a shout out to Kathy Lingo, the Executive Assistant to the Director and Commission for her work with the Agency and Commission. Director Martin said the Agency is at the three-quarter mark of the Fiscal Year through the end of March. He said Ms. Brennan said it best, due to the impact of \$4 gas and price pressures at the grocery stores, consumer spending patterns have slowed down on the Lottery side as well. For the month of March, revenue is down 3.7% in sales, and down 9.5% in profit year-over-year. There are favorable comparisons with the fourth quarter with the main jackpots for both Powerball and Mega Millions, with both currently being in triple digits. If one or both continue to grow for the remainder of the fiscal year, the Agency should still be fine at year-end. After three quarters in Fiscal Year 26, sales are up 2.5%, and profit is up almost 3% in profit for the fiscal year. The Agency is still on track to have a positive year-end. The Powerball and Mega Millions jackpots will help the Agency reach its goal.

The Commission heard from two casinos; however, if looking at all casinos in aggregate, March year-over-year is down in casino revenue 2.2% for the first three-quarters of the fiscal year, and contributions to the State are down 1.6%. Although he cannot speak for the casinos, Director Martin anticipates that they are facing the same economic pressures impacting foot traffic at all of the casinos. Sports wagering has been a strong note for the Agency, with contributions in both retail and mobile combined bringing year-to-date total to over \$105 million. As noted in previous meeting, total contributions to the State exceeded last year's totals, so the Agency is on pace to put up good numbers for the end of the fiscal year.

Director Martin said the Responsible Gaming initiative at the casinos is germane to the whole industry. He said problem gambling was the first term used, then was changed to responsible gaming and now play responsibly is the message, taking off the stigma of "problem" and punitive nature to foster a healthy environment, creating an education shift. Director Martin noted that Heather Eshleman of the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, who has been here before, is here today and would echo those sentiments. They do a great job with casinos and Lottery on the play responsibly messaging.

Commissioner Hodges asked if play responsibly is a new term. Director Martin said yes, "play responsibly" is the new term and if the Commissioner visits [mdlottery.com](http://mdlottery.com), he will see a lot of content on playing responsibly.

Vice Chair Marriner noted that \$105 million in annual contributions to the State is great. Director Martin said there continues to be things in the marketplace. There are challenges going forward, but the 23 sportsbooks continue to work with the Agency daily.

Chair Browning thanked Director Martin and his team to make sure the Commission and Agency regulate business the best they can. He said the Agency not only protects the customers as well as the partners for an even playing field across the board. The Commission and Agency are making sure Maryland leads the way when it comes to regulating gaming.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*Policy and Legislation* — Jennifer Beskid, Director

Dr. Beskid said, as mentioned in last month's meeting, the public comments for the regulations for the nine regulatory amendments that were approved at the October 23, 2025, meeting were presented, there were two amendments the Agency selected and opted to hold. Those were 36.03.06 for Enforcement of Voluntary Exclusion Program for Gaming, and 36.10.10 for Enforcement of Voluntary Exclusion Sports Wagering. The Agency has received information from the Division of State Documents that in order to put through the whole batch to approve them, the Agency would have to withdraw them. This does not require the Commission's action because these proposed amendments will be resubmitted. The Agency is waiting for guidance from DoIT.

Dr. Beskid provided a legislative update on the following bills of significance that passed during the 2026 legislative session:

**HB 289/SB 176 - Video Lottery Facility Payouts - Intercepts for Restitution Payments, Child Support Payments, and Debts Owed to the State** - Of the three departmental bills that were submitted, this is the one that passed. The other two departmental bills that did not pass dealt with illegal gaming and sports wagering promotional play.

**SB 284 - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2026** - There were changes made to the Lottery waterfall and how things are paid under State Government § 9-120.

Bills that passed that have an impact the Agency include:

**SB 459 - Advertising - Local News Organizations - Procurement - Advertising - Maryland News Organizations (Local News for Maryland Communities Act of 2026)** - Requiring Lottery to put at least 50% of the unit's total dollar value of procurement contracts for advertising directly to Maryland news organizations. It was amended to be more palatable to the Agency.

**HB 610 - St. Mary's County - Gaming by Qualified Organization - Permit Required - License Required** - Requiring the County to issue permits for gaming, as it had not previously been doing this.

**HB 717 - Baltimore City - Raffles - Organizations Affiliated With Professional Baseball and Football Teams** - Amending the statute to allow the Orioles to have more than 12 raffles per year. The bill also added the Baltimore Ravens, and now raffles are allowed at all games. This bill does not sunset for four years.

**HB 972 - Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Fund - Establishment (Charles J. Otto Agricultural Education Promise Act)** - Establishing the Maryland Fair and Agricultural Education Promise Fund to provide grants that advance agricultural fairs and education in the State; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; and requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill and appropriation of \$200,000 to the Fund each year; and requiring the Comptroller to pay \$100,000 to the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc, and \$100,000 to the Maryland FFA Association from the Fund for agricultural education programs; etc.

**HB 1120 - Professional Licensing Portability - Members of the Foreign Service and Spouses** - Authorizing members of the Foreign Service and spouses of members of the Foreign Service, under certain circumstances, to practice in the State under an occupational or professional license issued in another State. It affected the Agency in that it would have to recognize a Video Lottery employee license issued by another state but would allow the Agency to continue to do background investigations on the applicants.

**HB 1587 - Gaming - Operation of Electronic Instant Bingo Machines and Report by State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency** - Altering the definition of "slot machine" to increase from 54 to 100 the number of bingo cards certain handheld devices may allow a user to play at the same time. The report requires the Agency to retain an independent third-party vendor to study the potential impact of the expansion of electronic instant bingo machines at commercial bingo establishments. It is also to study the impact of potential expansion of electronic bingo machines, or historical horse racing (HHR) terminals, or under-utilized VLTS at satellite simulcast facilities not located in VLTs or horse racing facilities. There was a meeting called three weeks prior to

the end of session where a group proposed amendments that would bring HHR machines into facilities that have off track betting. During the discussion, it was asked if the Agency could look at VLTs and other types of machines. The bill goes into effect on July 1, 2026, and will be due in December 2026.

Chair Browning thanked Dr. Beskid for the report. He thanked her and James Butler for attending hearings in Annapolis and noted there is still a lot to do.

Commissioner Hodges asked what a qualified organization is? Dr. Beskid said in HB 610 charitable organizations are defined. Commissioner Hodges asked what they are? Dr. Beskid said that statute defines what they are, such as not-for profit organizations, fraternal, veterans, and volunteer fire companies which do community-based events. Dr. Beskid said she can provide Commissioner Hodges with a list because each county is broken down to show their qualified organizations.

Commissioner Hodges asked if the professional licensing portability initiative means that the license can be issue to the applicant without having to pay a fee. Dr. Beskid said it does not remove the fee, but if it is certified license, the person can bring the certification in and if they meet the requirement, then the person can get issued a license. People who are out of the country for foreign service duty and then come back to the US, they could not get a license reissued right away. If someone wants to apply for licensure, the applicant still needs to meet the requirements, but the licensure process can be a shorter time frame depending on whether full certification is needed.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no need for a closed session.

### **PRESENTATION OF GOVERNOR'S CITATION TO COMMISSIONER JAMES STAKEM**

Chair Browning expressed his gratitude and respect for Commissioner Stakem for his service to the Commission. Chair Browning announced that Commissioner Stakem would be leaving the Commission and that this would be his last meeting. He said Commissioner Stakem made sure that he was there for the casinos and representing Western Maryland. Chair Browning then read the Governor's Citation. The Commission presented the Governor's Citation to Commissioner James Stakem whose two terms with the Commission have ended.

Vice Chair Marriner spoke about his appreciation for Commissioner Stakem. He said Commissioner Stakem always came to the meeting prepared, read all information, asked questions, and was engaged. Vice Chair Marriner said that when he served as Chair, it was a wonderful thing knowing Commissioner Stakem was coming to meetings and was always prepared.

Commissioner Adebisi said he has had the pleasure of sitting next to Commissioner Stakem and held up Commissioner Stakem's Agenda that was filled with handwritten notes, noting how detailed the notes were and that Commissioner Stakem was always prepared. He said that Commissioner Stakem has been a great example to all new Commissioners.

Commissioner Mosby said that as the newest Commissioner, he remembered his first day on the Commission and that Commissioner Stakem welcomed him with open arms. He said he appreciated the help Commissioner Stakem had provided him.

Commissioner Stakem spoke of his childhood and his career as a teacher. He spoke of how we all need to do what we can to help people because it is not just about money. He talked about his volunteer service on 30 different committees over the years. He thanked Kathy Lingo for her assistance through the years. He recognized John Mooney and Mike Eaton for all their help answering his questions and that no one could beat Maryland's regulator. He thanked the Attorney General's Office and recognized Ms. Knepper who was here in the beginning and said James Butler had really helped him. Attending MACo over the past 12 years helped him to understand what is going on in Annapolis. He supported gaming for many years, and Allegany County was only the only Western Maryland county that wanted a casino. Commissioner Stakem said he was close to last five Governors, on a first name basis. He has always taken up for people trying to do right thing. He spoke of his marriage to Joey,

the love of his life for the past 64 years, and how she is his co-pilot. He is looking forward to being able to spend more time with family and give Joey more attention.

Commissioner Stakem and his wife then took a moment to take pictures with the Commissioners. Director John Martin presented Commissioner Stakem with a gift from the Agency.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in person at Lottery Headquarters.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Browning adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John Martin  
Director