Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission

Wes Moore, Governor

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MARYLAND LOTTERY AND GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
FEBRUARY MINUTES

DATE: February 26, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: In-Person at Maryland Lottery Headquarters
and Virtual

PRESENT: Chair Everett D. Browning, Sr.
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
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, Legislation and Policy
Kathy Lingo, Executive Assistant

OTHERS: Bobbi Jones, General Manager, Ocean Downs Casino
Ryan Eller, General Manager, Live! Casino
Gerald Stinnett, MBE Compliance Manager, OSBA
Heather Eshleman, Director of Operations, Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Chair Browning announced that there was a quorum established for the meeting. Also present in person were: Commissioners Adebisi, Mosby and Stakem. Commissioners Croghan and Hodges were virtual. Vice Chair Marriner 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 January 22, 2026. There being none, Chair Browning asked for a motion to approve the Open Session minutes. Commissioner Stakem motioned, Commissioner Mosby seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Browning said the Consent Agenda contains:

1. New Instant Ticket Games
   a. $2 #807 *Ravens x2*
   b. $10 #808 *Ravens x10*
   c. $5 #809 *Gold Bar Bingo 7th Edition*
   d. $5 #810 *In The Green*
   e. $20 #811 *Extreme Green*
2. Consent Agreements – Regulatory Violations
   a. Live! Casino – September 2025
   b. MGM National Harbor – June and August 2025
3. Consent Agreements – Mobile Sports Wagering Violations
   a. Draft Kings – August and September 2025
4. Consent Agreements – Underage Violations
   a. A&A Gaming – Case No. 2025-10-001
   b. Hollywood Casino – Case No. 2025-01-003
   c. Horseshoe Casino – Case Nos. 2025-05-007 to -010
   d. Live! Casino – Case No. 2025-03-026 to -037
   e. MGM National Harbor – Case Nos. 2025-06-011 to -018
5. Gaming License Application Denials/Revocations
6. Staff Reports: Craig Lindsey, James Butler, Michael Eaton, John Mooney, Paula Yocum, Seth Elkin, Solomon Ramsey, Sales and Marketing, and the report from the Office of the Attorney General.

Chair Browning asked if any Commissioners cared to remove and discuss any items on the Consent Agenda. There were no questions. Chair Browning then asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Stakem 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 Ocean Downs Casino and Live! Casino. He reviewed the MBE participation from 2021 to 2025 for the casinos, and provided vendor information for January – December 2025 broken down by Women, African American, Asian American Pacific and Hispanic American. A copy of the PowerPoint is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Stinnett said OSBA's focus is on Outreach, always planning and connecting with the casinos on outreach efforts. There will be an event at Ocean Downs in May, and Live! Casino already has dates for three events coming up, including the Veteran's Appreciation Business Preference, and the Women's Business Event, in April and May, respectively.

Chair Browning asked if any Commissioners had questions.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to know if the percentage for Ocean Downs Casino slide was by dollar value? Mr. Stinnett confirmed it was by the spend for MBEs. Commissioner Hodges wanted to know the reason for the drop. Mr. Stinnett said it was because Ocean Downs had used one vendor that had a significant spend amount and the casino decided to take that contracting opportunity in-house, and the casino also had some construction that was completed. Commissioner Hodges wanted to know the distribution as far as workload in that same period, if it was in one particular area? Mr. Stinnett said it was in one particular area. Commissioner Hodges asked what area? Mr. Stinnett checked with Ms. Jones and said he believed it was slot techs, clarifying it was the technicians for the slot machines.

Chair Browning thanked Mr. Stinnett, and the new Secretary for what they are doing. He said it is about collaboration and working with the casinos.

Chair Browning requested that Mr. Stinnett provide the Commission with notice of when events are happening, so that Commission members could attend and be there to show support. Chair Browning said the Commission is serious about being partners with the casinos for these events, to identify the needs and get the vendors prepared to meet the standards required for the casinos. He said the casinos are doing great pushing this initiative forward, and the goal is being hit, as systems are now in place. Chair Browning hopes there will be opportunities opening up to local minorities.

Commissioner Hodges asked Mr. Stinnett to speak briefly of the challenges Ocean Downs or other casinos are facing in finding qualified MBE vendors to perform certain services that do not have that coverage yet. He asked if Mr. Stinnett was monitoring or improving this matter, or what is it looking like? Mr. Stinnett said it is improving with the outreach efforts being done, and also connecting with the area's Chambers and having them participate in events at Ocean Downs. Mr. Stinnett plans to attend the Chambers meetings and talk about what OSBA is doing with the State, and by networking and working with the State, this should help improve the numbers. He thanked all casino operators for what they are doing.

Commissioner Mosby suggested, similar to Ocean Downs, that Mr. Stinnett do a summation by group so it is broken down by industry and cumulative amount. He also thanked the new Secretary for his efforts.

Chair Browning requested that Mr. Stinnett add veteran businesses that are working with casinos when breaking down the percentages, so that the Commission can have an understanding of how veterans are aware of this opportunity and that they are available. Mr. Stinnett said he would have the information available at the March meeting.

Chair Browning reminded everyone that the meeting now has just two casinos reporting each month to allow the Commission to better partner and understand the needs and focus on each casino.

OPERATOR REPORTS

Ocean Downs Casino

Ms. Bobbi Jones, General Manager, reported that December total gaming revenue was down 3.3% year-over-year. Sports wagering handle was down 45% year-over-year. The casino had several marketing promotions, tournaments and giveaways. Ocean Downs Casino donated to several charities during the holidays. The casino had a VIP experience at a Ravens game. On New Year's Eve, there were several giveaways and promotions with a 50's theme party that day. The casino raised $14,000 for Toys for Tots.

In January, total gaming revenue was up 12.32%, partly due to being closed several days in January last year due to snow. Sports handle was down 6.5%. There were also several marketing promotions in January. The casino held several tournaments and offered $4,000 in free play every Tuesday. The casino raised money for several charities in January.

Ms. Jones provided an overview of the casino. Currently there are 300 team members on average and in the summer, it goes up to 350 with racing added during that time. Success at the casino is measured by marketing with more trips and more wallet share. Ocean Downs has taken a market share from both Harrington and Dover's casinos. For nongaming revenue, the casino offers food and beverage options that appeal to current patrons.

The current risks faced by Ocean Downs Casino are iGaming, discretionary spending, and impacts from weather events. Current trends affecting business are geopolitical and weather. If people stop traveling and do not come to Ocean City, the casino would be in trouble. The casino works with the local Chambers of Commerce to make sure that does not happen.

Touching on MBE spend, Ms. Jones said the casino has taken the slot tech responsibilities in-house now, but previously used a company with which it had a contract, with a lot of spend coming from that one vendor in previous years. Mr. Stinnett has given great advice, that due to the difficulty in attracting vendors based on our location, the next larger population bases are in Ocean City, and then Salisbury and then Easton and Cambridge. It is hard to get businesses on the MDOT list to come out to the casino. Ocean Downs Casino is working with the local Chambers in Salisbury and Ocean City by participating in the Ready, Learn, Grow events.

Chair Browning asked if Ocean Downs Casino has partnered with University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Ms. Jones said they do partner with them. Chair Browning said there are entrepreneurs there, and suggested having a conversation with their business school about local businesses or students that they may want to train. He said he appreciated what the casino is doing, but does not want the MBE goal to be reached with just one vendor with a high percentage, but rather to spread out the spending with multiple vendors.

Commissioner Hodges asked in terms of quality vendors, if the slot techs who performed the technical work need to have certain qualifications to do the work, like a minimum standard? Ms. Jones said no, it is taught. The casino brought it in house as it made more sense businesswise and to manage their own workers and ensure machines are put back in service in the right time frame. There are tons of companies with qualified employees but this job can be learned.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to know if the casino could go to local vocational schools to find help for that kind of work. Ms. Jones said the casino has done that for IT and slot tech positions.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to know if people who do the work join any associations like CPA or if there is one forum to go to for help with finding employees for certain jobs. Ms. Jones asked if Commissioner

Hodges was referring to Slot Techs. Commissioner Hodges confirmed that is what he meant. Ms. Jones said if someone wants to come in and likes fixing things, Ocean Downs goes with that and provides the necessary training. The casino has worked with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Salisbury University. There is also a tech school located in the county that they work with. She said if someone is interested, they can come to the casino. It is about finding the right fit for the position. Food and beverage positions are the same. Work hours for slot techs are early in the morning around 4 a.m.

Ms. Jones said just recently, there was a blizzard in the area, and the smoking atrium which is in an open area of the casino had to have the machines covered due to the inclement weather. What the casino would like to see moving forward is, if the casino has to close the smoking atrium, they could have a rolling door installed in the windows which could be lowered during inclement weather. This would help protect the slot machines, but she believes that this would require a regulation change.

Commissioner Adebisi noted that was an interesting point, and asked Ms. Jones to elaborate on the issue. Ms. Jones explained that the open area where she is referring to is the smoking atrium. Depending on the direction of the storm, the area can get rain or snow coming in and some of the slot machines would be affected. When there are 70 mph winds, tarps are ineffective in covering the slot machines, as the tarps tend to come off. The casino is not allowed to have a roll down door in this window area because it is noted in regulations that a door is not allowed. They would like to have the door installed in this window area to close off the area during inclement weather. If that happens, MLGCA would be notified, but the door in this widow area is needed to protect the slot machines.

Commissioner Adebisi asked if that is a regulatory issue? Ms. Jones said yes.

Chair Browning said this is why we have longer meetings, so if there is something off in regulation, then the Commission wants to be clear on the issue, the authority, and then have a discussion on the matter. He said that Mr. Eaton and Mr. Mooney will likely have a report for him shortly to provide to the Commission on the need for obtaining roll-down doors. Chair Browning wants to know what can be corrected in regulation in order to have an understanding how Maryland consistently competes to make Maryland casinos more profitable and better for their employees, and when necessary to investigate and explore changes to regulatory provisions.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to know what Ocean Downs is currently doing to address the three Reduction in Forces (RIFs), iGaming, weather, and discretionary income of customers. Ms. Jones said she cannot address weather, except having a door to close in order to protect the slot machines would be a big help. She said Ocean Downs lost middle segments of its database due to shut-downs, and it really depended upon the higher-end players for its operations. Making sure they are targeting the right people and getting people back in the door to the casino, while also looking at promotional opportunities and the effects of the economy, all factor in on how the casino is affected. The casino did not have the wallet share.

Commissioner Hodges asked what iGaming is. He said he is not sure he knows what that is, but can she speak to that. Ms. Jones said they have a property in Pennsylvania and lost 45% of the staff because business revenue went down about 15% when iGaming was implemented. Ocean Downs does not like iGaming because it is detrimental to the brick-and-mortar casinos, and the casino does not like what it does to problem gambling.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to be clear and asked if it meant anyone can go online to do iGaming as opposed to going to a brick-and-mortar site? Ms. Jones said yes, any slot machine or table game would be available on online to play.

Commissioner Adebisi asked if Ms. Jones has data or knows a reason of iGaming has any bearing on the casino's physical location and environment they are in, and if the risk to the casino changes due to an urban or suburban environment? Ms. Jones said she believes iGaming is a risk to everything. That is the data that Ocean Down's has, which she can share with the Commission. Their belief is that iGaming is a risk to all casinos, regardless of location.

Commissioner Adebisi said he would like to see data on how pervasive or liberal iGaming laws are, and how it affects the casino. Ms. Jones said she will get the data and email it to him.

Chair Browning thanked Ms. Jones for the information provided as it helps the Commission understand things with respect to iGaming.

Live! Casino

Mr. Ryan Eller, General Manager, said he would do the January update and then do his presentation to walk through some answers to the questions that were provided ahead of time. He said that January would have been a pretty stupendous month, but the weather impacted it. Year-over-year, gaming revenue was up 1.4%, slots were up 5.7%, table games were down 5.8%, poker was up 6.7% and retail sportsbook was down due to the schedule of the teams that were out there, so it was $500K in revenue.

The casino had several marketing promotions, entertainment and tournaments at the casino in January. The casino opened up a zone-specific area of the floor for a new Linked and Loaded Zone, with a jackpot in that zone. The casino also had several giveaways in January. Team members celebrated the weekend after New Year's Eve with a gala to treat them for work done during a New Year's Eve event. Management staff staffed the event. In the community, team members volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul serving meals, and volunteered at an event at the Civic Works Firehouse in honor of Martin Luther King Day. MBE spend hit 26% to kick off the new year in 2026.

Mr. Eller presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining information regarding Live! Casino. In the PowerPoint, he provided information on the five generations of Cordish Companies through the United States. Mr. Eller discussed Live! Casino's in-house expertise and capabilities, and the locations of each Live! Casino in the United States. Based in Maryland. Mr. Eller provided the mission of Live! Casino. He presented the Maryland team and workforce overview with over 2,600 team members and how the casino measures success such as through KPIs. Mr. Eller spoke about the biggest risk factors, legislative risks such as iGaming, and non-regulated gaming, which they appreciate the Commission is trying to address with the enforcement legislation. Also, competition is another risk. Mr. Eller then spoke about the current trends impacting business that included market economic trends, political and regulatory trends such as iGaming proliferation, market competition trends, input costs and inflation, and workforce development.

Mr. Eller then moved on to MBE information for the casino, covering 2025 MBE performance at 29%, and MBE participation from 2021 through 2025. He talked about additional MBE statistics breaking down vendors by ethnicity and location, and provided a 2026 MBE Roadmap coming up for the casino including some capital improvements. Mr. Eller talked about gaming regulation reviews – Maryland offers best practices as far as regulations go. When the casino puts in a request, the vendor registration in other states have a higher bar, it might help with MBE spend to have opportunities from other jurisdictions.

Mr. Eller spoke about communication between MLGCA and the casino on various strategies and not diluting the industry. A copy of the PowerPoint is attached.

Chair Browning asked if any Commissioners had any questions.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to know, if Kalshi is considered iGaming? Mr. Eller said short answer is yes, in the category of unregulated areas, this would be one of the same areas as sweepstakes. Prediction markets that are being utilized to offer online sports betting products which emulate gambling are competing with online sports betting as well as from a brick-and-mortar operator standpoint, it also impacts the casino's retail sports betting operation. The reality is that outside of the legislative scope and enforcement measures currently being looked at, like sweepstakes, online illegal casino style games, and other online tools, are competing with the casino experience of slots and tables which are more easily identified.

Commissioner Hodges said he is not sure he understands how that is a threat? He said given that is the case,

what sort of action would the casino expect Maryland take with regulations to help deal with the threat, assuming it's a threat?

During the questions being presented to Mr. Eller by the Commissioners, Commissioner Mosby left the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Mr. Eller said that area of focus is primarily sweepstakes and online games, in direct competition with the casinos. Sweepstakes emulate play of slots or table games in the online space, but tools of enforcement are absent. Kalshi sports betting industry is trying to compete but that is a separate issue, online gaming enforcement specifically geared toward casino-style gaming.

Commissioner Hodges said on one of the charts presented, the casino is seeing inflationary cost spending and asked for an example of that. He said he was trying to get his head around it, and asked where the increases are coming from that affects the casino's ability to operate.

Mr. Eller said increasing cost of operations is not impeding the effectiveness of operation. Reality in this environment of scarcity of supply and it is being concentrated through mergers and acquisitions structurally and economically will give an inflationary pressure on inputs into the system at the casinos. Average slot machine costs $25,000 and the casino has 4,000 of them. It is very difficult and expensive to keep the floor up-to-date and competitive but the casino does a great job.

Commissioner Hodges asked if it applies to the slot machine repair industry as well? Mr. Eller said yes, it is really on the supply side of gaming. If applied to any gaming system, the casino manages it quite well.

Chair Browning thanked both casinos for their input, and said it is what the Commissioners need. Understanding the impacts is important. Getting employees cleared faster has been an issue, as the casinos need them to start working right away. It is an entry way into a career and the Commission wants to find ways to make that process streamlined. Chair Browning said MLGCA is working hard, looking at legislation and regulations, especially for those team members not touching cash. He said the Commission is aware of that and is looking into it.

Mr. Eller said that maybe a triage of what the risks factors are when it comes to certain rules would help facilitate a more rapid licensing process. Live! Casino's Human Resources Department has taken a great deal of effort in the past year. On of those KPI's mentioned, the casino uses, essentially to hire, licensing is part of that process, significantly reduces that timeframe by taking things the casino can control and the friction points out of the process to the extent possible. Trying a new background system to get a response more quickly, could take another day out of the process. Even on nongaming side, the average is 2 weeks from an offer to hire. In the outside world, the hiring process is faster. Cooperation with both regulators and the Commission this past year is important, and from Live! Casino's experience, the casino has seen that process reduced by a number of days.

Chair Browning said the Commission is aware of the challenges and legislation, and any information the casinos can provide helps the Commission to pass on to help the process.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Director John Martin reported that as Mr. Eller alluded, the weather was not good in January, losing the entire last week of the month affected both lottery sales and profit significantly. Sales were down 2.4%, and profits were down nearly 10% in January year-over-year. MLGCA is still ahead of last year's pace. Year-to-date sales are up 3.9% and profit is up 5.5%. While not all casinos are represented today, all were affected, in aggregate on the revenue side, down 1.9% in contributions to the State, and down 1.2% on the casino side. On the sports wagering side, as previously predicted MLGCA has eclipsed the entire FY25 performance on contributions to the State. There have now been more delivered contributions to State

than all of FY25 with $89 million in total contributions, with a strong hold year-to-date of 12%, and continues to be strong in the last push through Fiscal Year 2026. MLGCA anticipates a strong finish on the sports wagering front.

Chair Browning thanked Director Martin. He is aware there are many issues MLGCA is working on, and said to let the Commission know how they can support the Agency. Chair Browning said the Commission appreciates the day-to-day operations and being able to be the first line to the casinos, lotteries and sports betting as the industry changes. With technology and AI, the Commission can understand the heaviness on the MLGCA team, and the Commission appreciates what the Agency does to keep the Commission rolling through.

COMMISSION ACTION ITEM

Deputy Director – **Craig Lindsey**

Commission Action Item – **Invitation for Bids (IFB) – Play Station Kiosks** (#2025-04)

Mr. Lindsey reported that the MLGCA is seeking approval for the Contract #2025-04 to supply lottery play station kiosks where players can fill out lottery playslips and play scratch-off instant tickets by Schafer Systems, Inc. A single bid was received in response to the IFB. The Not to Exceed (NTE) amount of the contract is $272,680, for the purchase of up to 600 kiosks. The term of the contract is 18 months from April 23, 2026 to October 23, 2027.

Mr. Lindsey said staff recommends approval of the contract. If the Commission approves the contract, it will go to the next available Board of Public Works agenda.

Chair Browning asked if any Commissioners had questions.

Commissioner Adebisi asked what the kiosks are and where they are located? Mr. Lindsey said Shafer Systems is located in Iowa.

Chair Browning asked what is a lottery play station? Commissioner Adebisi also asked how they are different and where are they located? Mr. Lindsey said the play stations are physical equipment located in lottery retailer stores. The placement of the lottery play station kiosk is important because this is where players have a place to play their numbers using a play slip and scratch offs to make a purchase all in one area of the store.

Commissioner Adebisi asked if it is the same equipment as the lottery management system? Mr. Lindsey said no, these are kiosks outside of what you would see in terms of a gaming system. The play stations are set up in the store for customers to go to a different area and not block the registers to complete a playslip.

Chair Browning said so it is a different location to fill out a playslip, MLGCA may want to change the name because of copyright issues.

Commissioner Hodges wanted to confirm if it is a sole source contract. Mr. Lindsey said it ended up as one. It started off as a small business solicitation, but no bids were received. It was extended 30 days for bids to come in and only one business bid. Commissioner Hodges asked how long was the bidding? Mr. Lindsey said November 12, 2025 to December 12, 2025. It was then extended to January 14, 2026.

Commissioner Hodges asked if it had been advertised using the normal process? Mr. Lindsey confirmed it was advertised on eMMA, eMarketplace. Commissioner Hodges asked the amount. Mr. Lindsey said $272,680. Commissioner Hodges asked for the timeframe. Mr. Lindsey said April 23, 2026 to October 23, 2027.

Mr. Lindsey requested a motion to approve the lottery play station kiosks contract #2025-04 to Schafer Systems (2018) Inc. with a NTE value of $272,680, for the term of 18 months. Chair Browning asking for a motion. Commissioner Stakem motioned, Commissioner Adebisi seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Browning then introduced Jennifer Beskid to provide the legislative update.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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

Dr. Beskid provided a legislative update. She reported that the legislative session is at the halfway point. At the January Commission meeting, there were 11 bills to comment on regarding operational and fiscal impact to MLGCA. Since that time, there are 24 additional bills that the Agency was requested to comment on, many of which were recycled from previous sessions.

The bill MLGCA is closely following with the intention of supporting is HB 1226/SB 652, Maryland Illegal Online Gaming Enforcement Act.

SB 652/HB 1226:

(1) Establishes a comprehensive enforcement structure implemented by the Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division (CPD).
(2) Addresses jurisdictional and evidentiary obstacles that have prevented meaningful action against illegal online gaming.
(3) Applies to operators of illegal games, as well as platform providers, payment processors, gaming content providers, and influencers.
(4) Envisions collaboration between CPD's resources and MLGCA's gaming expertise to prioritize consumer protections against the risks of illegal online gaming.

In tangent with each other, both bills:

(1) Bring much-needed updates to the criminal and gaming laws, which did not previously contemplate online gaming.
(2) Creates an enforcement "hammer" against illegal online gaming.
(3) Authorizes substantial civil and criminal penalties against violators.

Senate Bill 112, was heard in the Senate on Wednesday, January 28th. And the cross-file, House Bill 295, was heard in the House on February 5th. The challenges with the testimony are that the opponents to the bill have been very successful in trying to make this about illegal games that would mimic games people play for entertainment, and do not involve the aspects of consideration chance and reward, which is what defines the illegal gaming aspect.

MLGCA was invited to participate in a workgroup with the subcommittee that will be voting to move our bill out of the subcommittee and onto the floor to get it passing for crossover. MLGCA believes it was able to put to rest the fact that MLCGA and the Commission are not trying to remove the fun games played that do not involve consideration, chance and reward simply by reminding everyone that it is in the Criminal Law statute that the Commission has the ability to determine what is an illegal game. MLGCA has sent 75 cease and desist letters over the past two years, none of them to the games that opponents have been putting out there as games that would go away in Maryland.

The other two Departmental bills are SB 102/HB 291 Sports Wagering Proceeds - Promotional Play Exclusion – Limitation which has not moved since it was heard, and SB 176/HB 289 Video Lottery Facility Payouts - Intercepts for Restitution Payments, Child Support Payments, and Debts Owed to the State, MLGCA has received some amendments from the Department of Budget and Management. The bill was scheduled for voting yesterday but because of the amendments, it was held as the amendments had not yet been finalized. It is expected that the voting will take place before next month's Commission meeting.

March 23rd is "opposite chamber crossover" day. Any bill that has not passed out of the House or Senate Chambers by the end of this date, cannot cross over unless authorized by the Rules Committees in each respective chamber. By the March 26 Commission meeting, MLGCA will have a better understanding of what bills will impact the Commission and Agency.

Dr. Beskid asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Hodges wanted Dr. Beskid to talk about any possible penalties, criminally or civilly, by Kalshi. Dr. Beskid said there are penalties. Commissioner Hodges asked her to talk about fines. Dr. Beskid said it increases from one to three years.

Commissioner Stakem said he has wanted to see more enforcement due to complaints, and it looks like things are taking place. He is happy about this bill. Dr. Beskid acknowledged the casino partners for their letters in support of the bill.

Chair Browning said making it a law will help both MLGCA and the operations and integrity of the casino partners. He said the legislators are interesting people and having Dr. Beskid and Mr. Butler there helps Annapolis to understand the law and keep a fair playing field. The Commission's goal is to regulate, and that cannot be done if not regulated.

INTRODUCTION TO MARYLAND CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

Heather Eshleman, Director of Operations, introduced herself to the Commission, and spoke about the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (MCEPG), who they are and where they are located. She spoke about what they do. She spoke of services provided by MCEPG and resources they offer for people to obtain treatment. They also track public policies, so staff will be in Annapolis tomorrow for legislation regarding problem gambling. Ms. Eshleman provided some statistics they had as to the number of people that may have a gambling problem. They provide the 1-800-GAMBLER help line that has live people to help. The Problem Gambling Fund provides Maryland residents with no cost treatment, and can provide further resources if interested.

Chair Browning said the Center does an important aspect of what MLGCA does with problem gambling, and that is important.

Commissioner Hodges said with the rise of iGaming, that there are likely more issues now than in the past, and asked if the Center is finding they get more clients now than in prior years. Ms. Eshleman said the Center does track data from the helpline. There were two calls a day last year, and now there are three calls a day, mainly seen from online gambling.

Commissioner Hodges asked if it was voluntary for people to call the Center or if the Center reaches out to people? Ms. Eshleman said people can reach out to the Center through the helpline, but they also have peer support specialists at treatment centers to help those in need. There is a lot of education going on in colleges and resources are available to inform them of the risks. If someone is of legal age, they can gamble for fun and recreation, and entertainment is okay, but if it becomes a problem the Center wants people to know if they need help the Center is there.

Chair Browning wanted to know whether family can recommend a family member be excluded from the casinos? Ms. Eshleman said that the Voluntary Exclusion Program (VEP) is a Lottery program. A person has to want to do it for the Center to help.

Chair Browning said usually family members are trying to get help, and wanted to know if there are programs for families impacted, and how to get them better prepared and supported through the process. Ms. Eshleman said there are some places that can help, including Gamanon for family members, and the Parent's Place in Maryland which now does family support. There is problem gambling support for family members.

Chair Browning asked again to confirm that individual must request to go onto the exclusion list. Ms. Eshleman said yes.

Commissioner Adebisi wanted to confirm that the Center can't accept a referral from a family member. Ms. Eshleman said the Center is able to provide support and education for family members, but the addicted person has to want to get help. If the person is not ready, the family can be provided with resources, but the person has to embrace help.

Commissioner Adebisi said so the Center does not have outreach to that person? Ms. Eshleman said sometimes peers, having life experience, if family calls in, they can ask the Center to reach out. The Center will get a phone number and try to reach out. When dealing with college students, parents call in because a college student can't stop spending money. The parent can indicate the student consents to have the Center talk to the student, but student has to be ready.

Commissioner Adebisi said it is a good approach having the capability to reach out and get in touch with the person. Ms. Eshleman said the Center has an ongoing relationship with people and keep in touch with people knowing it can be a relapsing disease.

Chair Browning said the Commissioner looks forward to seeing Ms. Eshleman often, to provide updates, providing what legislation to push, any type of things the Center thinks the Commission can implement, reach out to the Commission. The Commission partners with people trying to help those in need with efforts and attention on the casinos and online operators identifying players that need help. There are misconceptions out there that the casinos are not working to help people or the Commission is not working with them, but they do want to help people.

Ms. Eshleman said there has been tremendous growth over the years from the casinos and the Agency are trying to help.

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, March 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in person at Lottery Headquarters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Browning adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Martin
Director

Video Lottery Terminals (VLT) Facilities
MBE Participation Compliance Review
Ocean Downs Casino & Live Casino & Hotel

February 2026

Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

OFFICE OF SMALL, MINORITY & WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs

The Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs (OSBA) is providing the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission (MLGCC) with a review of the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) vendors for (1) Ocean Downs Casino (Ocean Downs) and (2) Live Casino & Hotel (Live).

Ocean Downs Casino

MBE Participation

Based on the review for Ocean Downs Casino, the Ongoing Operations Phase (excluding the purchase of VLT/Table Games) for the calendar years 2021 through 2025 is as follows:

Ongoing Operations 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025

Minority Classification	Total Payments	MBE Payments	MBE Participation	MBE Goal
Overall	$ 4,498,391	$ 449,766	10%	19%

Ongoing Operations 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024

Minority Classification	Total Payments	MBE Payments	MBE Participation	MBE Goal
Overall	$ 4,763,172	$ 182,052	4%	19%

Ongoing Operations 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023

Minority Classification	Total Payments	MBE Payments	MBE Participation	MBE Goal
Overall	$ 2,960,495	$ 314,821	11%	19%

Ongoing Operations 01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022

Minority Classification	Total Payments	MBE Payments	MBE Participation	MBE Goal
Overall	$ 2,866,378	$ 908,164	32%	19%

Ongoing Operations 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021

Minority Classification	Total Payments	MBE Payments	MBE Participation	MBE Goal
Overall	$ 2,807,005	$ 1,025,572	37%	19%

Ocean Downs Casino – MBE Vendors

For Hollywood Casino, the MBE vendor information is based on the calendar year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025:

Jurisdiction/Services	MBE Classification	MBE Vendors	Percentage
Anne Arundel County			
Supplies	African America	1	5%
Baltimore City			
Marketing	Women	1	2%
Montgomery County			
Marketing	Asian American	1	4%
Out-of-State			
Marketing	Asian American	1	89%
	Total MBE Vendors	4	100%

Live Casino & Hotel

MBE Participation

Based on the review for Live Casino & Hotel, the Ongoing Operations Phase (excluding the purchase of VLT/Table Games) for the calendar years 2021 through 2025 is as follows:

Ongoing Operations 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025

Minority Classification	Total Payments	MBE Payments	MBE Participation	MBE Goal
Overall	$ 39,108,063	$ 11,416,425	29%	19%

Ongoing Operations 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024

Minority Classification	Total Payments	MBE Payments	MBE Participation	MBE Goal
Overall	$ 61,166,742	$ 14,104,022	23%	19%

Ongoing Operations 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023

Minority Classification	Total Payments	MBE Payments	MBE Participation	MBE Goal
Overall	$ 58,421,996	$ 14,392,703	25%	19%

Ongoing Operations 01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022

Minority Classification	Total Payments	MBE Payments	MBE Participation	MBE Goal
Overall	$ 56,048,998	$ 9,569,870	17%	19%

Ongoing Operations 01/01/2021 - 12/31/2021

Minority Classification	Total Payments	MBE Payments	MBE Participation	MBE Goal
Overall	$ 46,774,727	$ 5,316,506	11%	19%

Live Casino & Hotel – MBE Vendors

For Live Casino & Hotel, the MBE vendor information is based on the calendar year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025:

Anne Arundel			
Dry Cleaning	Women	1	1%
Event Décor / Event Rentals	Women	1	4%
IT Supplies / Services	African American	1	3%
Printing Supplies	Women	2	2%
Supplies	Women	1	4%
Transportation / Trucking Services	Women	1	1%
	Anne Arundel	7	15%
Baltimore City			
Architectural Design Services	African American	1	0.4%
Furniture	African American	1	0.1%
Linen Cleaning	Asian American Pacific	1	3%
Office Supplies	Women	1	0.5%
Promotional Supplies	African American	1	3%
Supplier Diversity Outreach / Community Outreach	African American	1	0.5%
Valet Services	African American	1	5%
	Baltimore City	7	12%
Baltimore County			
Radio Purchases / Maintenance	African American	1	1%

Live Casino & Hotel – MBE Vendors

For Live Casino & Hotel, the MBE vendor information is based on the calendar year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025:

Carroll County			
Audio Visual / Design Services	Women	1	0.5%
Facility Services / Snow Removal	Women	1	0.8%
	Carroll County	2	1.3%
Federick County			
Consultant	African American	1	0.3%
Harford County			
Jewelry Supplier	Women	1	0.1%
Howard County			
Flooring	Hispanic American	1	2.6%
Florist	African American	1	0.1%
Food & Beverage	Women	1	0.4%
General Contractor	Women	1	3.5%
Office Supplies	Asian American	1	0.1%
Security Services	Asian American	1	5.9%
	Howard County	6	12.6%

Live Casino & Hotel – MBE Vendors

For Live Casino & Hotel, the MBE vendor information is based on the calendar year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025:

Prince George's County			
Bio-Waste Removal	Women	1	0.3%
Cleaning Services	African American	1	0.03%
Food & Beverage	African American	1	3%
Food & Beverage	Asian American Pacific	1	0.004%
Food & Beverage	Hispanic American	2	2%
Fuel & Petroleum Products	African American	1	0.3%
Hospitality/Event Staffing	Women	1	14%
Kitchen Supplies / General Sourcing	African American	1	8%
Promotional Supplies	African American	1	1%
Promotional Supplies	Asian American Pacific	1	0.4%
Promotional Supplies	Women	1	0.01%
Signage / Displays	African American	1	0.2%
Supplies	African American	1	0.02%
Supplies	Asian American Pacific	1	0.03%
Technology	African American	1	0.02%
Transportation Services	African American	1	3%
Upholstery Services	Asian American Pacific	1	0.02%
	Prince George's County	18	32%

Live Casino & Hotel – MBE Vendors

For Live Casino & Hotel, the MBE vendor information is based on the calendar year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025:

Montgomery			
Construction	African American	1	0.2%
Food & Beverage	African American	1	0.3%
General contracting and construction management	African American	1	2.7%
Management Consulting Supplier Diversity Strategy	African American	1	0.1%
Marketing	Asian American Sub-Continent	1	0.1%
Promotional Supplies	Women	1	0.1%
	Montgomery	6	3.4%
Out-of -State			
Tech Supplies	Women	1	0.03%
Architectural Design Services	Hispanic American	2	0.2%
Cleaning Services	Women	1	0.01%
Food & Beverage	Asian American Pacific	1	8%
Hardware / Facilities Supplies	Women	1	0.1%
IT Supplies / Services	Women	1	0.1%
Marketing Supplies	Women	1	2%
Promotional Supplies	African American	1	0.3%
Promotional Supplies	Women	1	5%
Supplies	African American	1	6%
	Out-of -State	11	22%
		60	100%

Outreach Programs

Doing Business with Maryland Casinos

This outreach program is an opportunity for small, minority, women and veteran owned businesses to learn about the procurement process and services directly from the casinos. This event is held at each casino, and OSBA partners with local chambers and organizations to involve the local business community where the casino is located.

Ready, Set, GROW!

This program series connects vendors with buyers from several state agencies. Each agency will share what they are looking to buy currently, what is in their pipeline, and how to connect with them directly. Participants will gain insights on how our small, minority, women, and veteran procurement programs work and learn strategies for mining public data to help with their business development efforts. In addition, the casino that host the event will participate with other state agencies to connect with small, minority, women and veteran businesses.

Gerald Stinnett
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