

**Games for Charity Study Commission
Meeting
September 22, 2015
03**

Present:

Mr. Larry Belair –Chairman
Mr. Jim Rausch –Vice Chairman
Senator Lou D’Allesandro - Member
Representative Patrick Abrami -Member
Mr. Timothy Connors -Member
Major Russell Conte – Member
Attorney John Kennedy – Member
Mr. Lynn Presby - Member

In Attendance: Representative Susan Almy, Paul Kelley-Director RCGC, Sudhir Naik-Deputy Director RCGC, Valerie King-Procedures Administrator RCGC, Linda Darrow-Recording Secretary RCGC, Nancy LeVinus-House Committee Researcher, Charlie McIntyre-Executive Director Lottery Commission, Ed Callahan, Dick Bouley, Jan DiMarzio, Nick Bonardi, Rick Newman, Ryan Gloddy and others

Chairman Belair called the meeting to order shortly after 10:00 a.m. He stated that the goal of today’s meeting was to discuss the focus points of HB 1630 and gather data and information in order to start preparing a draft report. The final report is due on December 15, 2015.

Introduction of Members

Each member was asked to introduce himself.

General Ground Rules

Chairman Belair noted that the ground rules were established at the first meeting and reminded everyone to be recognized by the chair before making a comment.

Approval of the minutes of 9/1/15

On a motion by Mr. Connors, and seconded by Representative Abrami, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the minutes dated 9/1/15.

General Discussion Topics

Mr. Rausch thanked the RCGC staff for their work on the Cocheco Valley Humane Society audit.

Discussion ensued on the following paragraphs of HB 1630, RSA 329:4 relating to RSA 284:6-b III:

1. (f) The prospect of limiting the growth or phasing out games for charity – discussion revolved around:
 - a. the reliance of charities on the revenue they make from charitable gaming
 - b. the need to increase enforcement and regulatory oversight of these games
 - c. the lack of funding to increase oversight of these games and how to obtain more funding
 - d. the growth of charitable gaming in the last few years well beyond the ability of the state to constructively manage it
 - e. what impact casinos in Massachusetts will have on charitable gaming
 - f. the need for accountability on the part of charities when audits reveal discrepancies and misappropriation of funds
 - g. the need to educate the legislature on charitable gaming
 - h. how the recent casino bill presented to the legislature addressed many of these issues
 - i. the need to provide all citizens with the same protections
 - j. developing an enforcement model of laws and regulations showing how it all works and building on it from there

It was agreed that charitable gaming is here, that it needs to be enforced and regulated, growth needs to be controlled, and the possibility of partnering with the State Police and Attorney General's office to accomplish specific goals.

2. (d) Alternative funding for charitable organizations – it was agreed that currently, there are no alternative funding sources for charitable organizations.
3. (g) The prospect of improving and expanding the games of chance for charity system to enhance resources for charities – discussion ensued around electronic Lucky 7 devices, Table Stakes Poker, and the shared bingo bill currently in front of the legislature. It was also suggested a training program be developed for charity members on the basics of charity gaming.
4. (a) Revenue impact on the state, charitable organizations, facility owners, game operator employers, primary game operators, secondary game operators, and equipment dealers if the authorized games of chance system is eliminated - Director Kelley provided a handout on gaming statistics and gave a quick overview of the data. Chairman Belair asked the commission members to review the material and to be prepared to discuss the data at the next meeting.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Rick Newman asked for a copy of the handout. Director Kelly stated that this material will be posted on the agency's website as well.

Representative Susan Almy recapped a history of gaming in New Hampshire and the changing nature of the games. She expressed her concerns about corruption in the gaming industry.

Tour of Charitable Gaming Sites

Director Kelley organized tours of several gaming sites on September 26th and October 3rd. Most members opted for the October 3rd date. Director Kelley will provide a tour for any member unable to attend either of those two dates.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th at 10:00 a.m. in Room 100 of the Walker Building, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord NH.

At 11:55 a.m. on a motion by Senator D'Allesandro, and seconded by Mr. Rausch, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.