



ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD

JB Pritzker • Governor Dionne Hayden • Chairperson Marcus Fruchter • Administrator

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Regular Meeting, Open Session Minutes Illinois Gaming Board Chicago, Illinois July 31, 2025

The Illinois Gaming Board convened for a Regular Meeting on Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. in the 5th Floor Auditorium of the Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL, and through electronic means pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 *et seq.* The meeting was accessible on the morning of July 31, 2025, via livestream at: <https://multimedia.illinois.gov/igb/igb-live.html>.

A roll call was taken. The following Board members were physically present: Chairperson Dionne Hayden, Member Sean Brannon and Member Stephen Ferrara. Three members of the Board being present, a quorum was satisfied.

At approximately 9:01 A.M., Member Ferrara moved to go into closed session pursuant to Section 2(c), paragraphs (1), (4), (11), (21) and (36) of the Open Meetings Act and Section 6(d) of the Illinois Gambling Act to discuss items on the closed session agenda relating to the employment and performance of a specific employee, pending litigation, the review of closed session minutes of the Regular Board Meetings, and to deliberate on decisions of the Illinois Gaming Board in which there is discussed personal, commercial, financial, or other information obtained from any source that is privileged, proprietary, confidential, or a trade secret; or information specifically exempted from the disclosure by federal or State law. Member Brannon seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by voice vote. Thereafter, the Board held its closed session meeting in person and through electronic means, the minutes of which are separately recorded. The Board's closed session meeting was not accessible via livestream at <https://multimedia.illinois.gov/igb/igb-live.html>.

At approximately 10:37 A.M., the Board reconvened its Regular Meeting of Thursday, July 31, 2025, pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 *et seq.* The meeting was held in person and through electronic means. The meeting was accessible on the morning of July 31, 2025, via livestream at: <https://multimedia.illinois.gov/igb/igb-live.html>.

Another roll call was taken. The following Board members were physically present: Chairperson Dionne Hayden, Member Sean Brannon and Member Stephen Ferrara. Three members of the Board being present, a quorum was satisfied.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted unanimously to approve the open session minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting held on June 5, 2025.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Newly appointed IGB Chairperson Dionne Hayden took the opportunity to formally introduce herself to the Illinois gaming community and listening audience. She noted what a great honor it is to step into the role of Board Chairperson. The Chairperson extended her sincerest gratitude to Governor JB Pritzker for the appointment to such an important position. She then thanked former Chairman Charles “Chip” Schmadeke for his exceptional service during his tenure recognizing his leadership and dedication to the Board, the Illinois gaming industry and the citizens of the State of Illinois. Chairperson Hayden expressed her deep appreciation for Administrator Marcus Fruchter and the entire IGB staff for their dedication, hard work and unwavering commitment to the Board’s mission. She also thanked her family for their support. Chairperson Hayden concluded her comments by noting that her previous six years on the Board has been a rewarding experience in which she has seen dynamic growth in the gaming industry and although there is still much work to be done, she is excited about Illinois’ gaming future and is committed to upholding integrity in the industry.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Fruchter began his report by thanking former Chairman Schmadeke for his dedicated service to the Board and welcomed Chairperson Hayden into her new role. He described Dionne as a “thoughtful, prepared, engaged and principled” colleague and Board Member who has demonstrated a strong commitment to the rule of law and public service. The Administrator then congratulated Chairperson Hayden on her appointment and stated that he looks forward to their continued collaboration.

Administrator Fruchter noted that IGB employee Chris Orozco was retiring on this day. He noted that Chris has been with the IGB for more than 13 years and has served in the valuable role of Licensing Analyst. The Administrator thanked Chris for his dedicated service, work ethic and the many contributions he made to the IGB’s mission. The Administrator wished Chris well in his retirement and all future endeavors.

Administrator Fruchter mentioned that, on May 13th, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (“JCAR”) approved administrative rules for advertising and marketing initiatives for each of the Illinois gaming segments. The Secretary of State is expected to publish these on August 1st, thus marking their effectiveness. The Administrator stated that the IGB intends to issue a notice to licensees next week, but to consider this announcement as an advance notice.

The Administrator announced the opening of a public commentary solicitation from stakeholders on whether casino and VGT patrons should be allowed to use redemption terminals to donate money to charitable causes. He stated that any public comments should be directed to igb.directorofpolicy@igb.gov and must be submitted by September 19th.

Administrator Fruchter reminded Licensed Establishments of their duty under Rule 1800.270(r) to ensure that VGTs “are not played for recreational purposes by an owner, person with significant influence or control, or video gaming manager of the location.” He noted that the IGB has received an increasing number of reports that this behavior is occurring in the marketplace. The Administrator reminded licensees that they are subject to discipline, up to and including revocation of their gaming licenses, if they violate this rule.

Administrator Fruchter noted that Illinois has 17 operating casinos (including 1 “racino”), 14 sportsbooks, 59 active Terminal Operators, 8,733 licensed Video Gaming Establishments and 49,378 live Video Gaming Terminals (“VGTs”). In June, VGTs generated Net Terminal Income (“NTI”) of \$253,394,772,

which yielded a total tax of \$88,686,565. The State retained \$75,649,469, while municipalities and counties retained \$13,037,096. Illinois casinos produced Adjusted Gross Receipts (“AGR”) of \$159,126,819, yielding a State tax of \$32,844,451 while host communities earned \$9,894,635. In May, Sports Wagering had AGR of \$120,933,145 generating a State tax in the amount of \$43,761,881 while Cook County received an additional \$1,415,990. From January-June (excluding sports wagering’s June results), Illinois has generated total gaming tax of \$987,176,810. The State retained \$841,062,645 while locals received \$146,114,165.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Rule 3000.785 Petition for Hearing – Self- Excluded Person

The Board voted unanimously to deny a Self-Excluded Person’s Petition for Hearing on a Notice of Denial of a Request for Removal from the Voluntary Self-Exclusion List.

CASINO

OWNERS/ORGANIZATION GAMING LICENSEE ITEMS

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff’s recommendation to grant Fairmount Park, Inc. d/b/a Fairmount Park Casino and Racing an Organization Gaming license for a period of four years, expiring in July 2029 and further found the following individual suitable as a key person of Fairmount Park, Inc. d/b/a Fairmount Park Casino and Racing: Kenneth Brice Rotman.

Key Person Suitability Determination

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff’s recommendation to find Vladimira Donkova Mircheva suitable as a key person of Casino Queen, LLC d/b/a DraftKings at Casino Queen.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff’s recommendation to find Victor Hugo Echenique suitable as a key person of Des Plaines Development Limited Partnership d/b/a Harrah’s Joliet Casino & Hotel; Elgin Riverboat Resort d/b/a Grand Victoria Casino and Southern Illinois Riverboat Casino Cruises LLC d/b/a Harrah’s Metropolis Casino.

SUPPLIER LICENSEE ITEM

Initial Supplier License

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff’s recommendation to grant EVS Interactive, Inc. d/b/a Redyref a casino Supplier license for a period of four years, expiring in July 2029 and further find the following individuals and business entity suitable as key persons of EVS Interactive, Inc. d/b/a Redyref:

1. Scott Bradley Berkowitz
2. Joseph William Amico
3. William Jason Pymm
4. EVS Consolidated, Inc.

Key Person Suitability Determinations

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to find Craig Terence Toner suitable as a key person of Aristocrat Technologies, Inc.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to find Jeffrey Eugene Hook suitable as a key person of both HR Rockford, LLC and Seminole Hard Rock Support Services, LLC.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSEE ITEMS

Level 1 License Applications – Approvals

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to approve Rebecca Lee Gorgas and Michael Keith Morgan as a Level 1 Occupational licensees at Bally's Chicago Operating Company, LLC.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to approve Mark Joseph Thompson as a Level 1 Occupational licensee at Casino Queen, LLC d/b/a DraftKings at Casino Queen.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to approve Sara Renee Cox, Vincent Edward Gabbert and Nathan Matthew Kirby as Level 1 Occupational licensees at Fairmount Park, Inc. d/b/a Fairmount Park Casino and Racing.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to approve Nicholas Joseph Babets and Mantaj Singh Virk as Level 1 Occupational licensees at HC Joliet, LLC d/b/a Hollywood Casino Joliet.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to approve Mark Anthony Heavrin as a Level 1 Occupational licensee at Walker's Bluff Casino Resort, LLC.

Level 2 and 3 License Applications – Approvals and Denials

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to approve 319 Level 2 and 27 Level 3 occupational licenses and further to issue Notices of Denial to the following applicants:

1. Kylee Christine Nilson (24R015473)
2. Rebecca Christine Muhleback (24R015413)
3. Chynna Alexia Bolden (24Y015302)
4. Amareon Todd Caldwell (24Y017082)
5. Kamry Monay Anderson (24R011063)
6. Kellie Ann Hoffmeister (24R017953)

Occupational License Renewals by the Administrator

Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Board on February 6, 2025, the Administrator renewed the Level

1, 2, and 3 licenses of individuals who were licensed or renewed in July 2024 who properly updated their applications and complied with the requirements of the Illinois Gambling Act and the Board's Rules.

SPORTS WAGERING

MASTER SPORTS WAGERING LICENSEE ITEMS

Key Person Suitability Determinations

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to find Vladimira Donkova Mircheva suitable as a key person of Casino Queen, LLC d/b/a DraftKings at Casino Queen.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to find Kenneth Brice Rotman suitable as a key person of Fairmount Park, Inc. d/b/a Fairmount Park Casino and Racing.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROVIDER LICENSEE ITEM

Key Person Suitability Determination

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to find Alan Wayne Ellingson suitable as a key person of Crown IL Gaming LLC d/b/a DraftKings.

SPORTS WAGERING OCCUPATIONAL LICENSEE ITEMS

Level 2 and Level 3 License Applications – Approvals

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to approve 204 Level 2 sports wagering occupational licenses.

SPORTS WAGERING LICENSE RENEWALS

Level 1, 2, and 3 License Renewals – Administrator Delegation

Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Board on February 6, 2025, the Administrator renewed the Level 1, 2, and 3 Sports Wagering licenses of the individuals who were licensed or renewed in July 2024 who properly updated their applications and complied with the requirements of the Sports Wagering Act and the Board's Rules.

VIDEO GAMING

TERMINAL OPERATOR LICENSEE ITEM

Initial Licenses – Approvals

- Apex VGT of IL LLC

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to grant Apex VGT of IL LLC a terminal operator license, for a period of four years, expiring July 2029.

TECHNICIANS & TERMINAL HANDLERS

Initial Licenses – Approvals and Denials

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to approve 1 Technician licenses and 42 Terminal Handler licenses for a period of two years, expiring in July 2027, subject to licensee's payment of the applicable licensing fee on or before August 31, 2025, and further to issue a Notice of Denial to the following applicant:

1. Kwasi Jabari Ashford Vaughters (230502256)

VG Technicians and Terminal Handlers License Renewals (by Administrator)

Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Board on February 6, 2025, the Administrator renewed the licenses of Technicians and Terminal Handlers who were licensed in July 2023, for a period of two years expiring in July 2027, who properly updated their applications and complied with the requirements of the Video Gaming Act and the Board's Rules.

VIDEO GAMING ESTABLISHMENT APPLICANT ITEMS

VG Location Establishment Approvals and Denials

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to approve 94 Video Gaming Establishment License applications, for a period of two years, expiring in July 2027, subject to licensee's payment of the applicable licensing fee on or before August 31, 2025.

VG Location Establishment License Denial by Administrator

Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Board on February 6, 2025, to deny all applicants who, after an appropriate investigation, staff determined are prohibited by statute or rule from holding the license applied for, the Administrator denied the Video Gaming Location Establishment license applications of the following applicants:

1. Bufalo Family Laundromat, Inc. d/b/a Bufalo Family Laundromat (240701236)
2. ELIANA 2 LLC d/b/a Main Street Cafe (240702411)

VG Location Establishment Rescission Items

- GAMMON COACH HOUSE LLC d/b/a GAMMON COACH HOUSE

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation that the Board rescind its previous denial and grant GAMMON COACH HOUSE LLC d/b/a GAMMON COACH HOUSE a location establishment license, for a period of two years, expiring in July 2027, subject to licensee's payment of the applicable

licensing fee on or before August 31, 2025.

- CJS GAMING BAR, LLC d/b/a CJS GAMING BAR

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation that the Board rescind its previous denial and allow CJS GAMING BAR, LLC d/b/a CJS GAMING BAR time to obtain its local and state liquor licenses before the IGB considers whether to issue CJS GAMING BAR, LLC d/b/a CJS GAMING BAR a video gaming establishment license.

- Leena Corp d/b/a Quick Stop

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation that the Board rescind its previous denial and grant Leena Corp d/b/a Quick Stop (250700019) a location establishment license, for a period of two years, expiring in July 2027, subject to licensee's payment of the applicable licensing fee on or before August 31, 2025.

VG Location Establishment License Renewals by Administrator

Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Board on February 6, 2025, the Administrator renewed the licenses of Video Gaming Location Establishments who were licensed in July 2023, for a period of two years expiring in July 2027, who properly updated their applications and complied with the requirements of the Video Gaming Act and the Board's Rules.

LITIGATION/ALJ RECOMMENDATION

ALJ Recommendation/Final Board Order

- *In the Discipline of:* Firebird Enterprise, Inc., d/b/a Steak N Egger – Racine; License No. 180702278 (No. 23-GB-15/DC-V-23-214)

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation that the Board grant summary judgment on Counts I and II of the Amended DC to Firebird Enterprise, Inc., d/b/a Steak N Egger – Racine, reject the ALJ's Recommendation as to Count III, sustain Count III of the Amended DC, and revoke the video gaming license of Firebird Enterprise, Inc., d/b/a Steak N Egger – Racine.

ADJOURN

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.