



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 September 11, 2025

The Illinois Gaming Board convened for a Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 11, 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 September 11, 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, Member Stephen Ferrara and Member Caleb Melamed. Four members of the Board being present, a quorum was satisfied.

At approximately 9:01 A.M., Member Brannon 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 Melamed 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 10:02 A.M., the Board reconvened its Regular Meeting of Thursday, September 11, 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 September 11, 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, Member Stephen Ferrara and Member Caleb Melamed. Four members of the Board being present, a quorum was satisfied.

Administrator Fruchter took a moment to welcome newly appointed Board Member Caleb Melamed. The Administrator highlighted Member Melamed's extensive knowledge and experience in gaming law and policy. Similarly, Chairperson Hayden welcomed Member Melamed to the Board and noted that she looks forward to working with him.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the Board's Regular Meeting held on July 31, 2025. Following review of the closed session minutes from June 9, 2021, and March 2024 through June 2025, the Board voted unanimously to find that the need for confidentiality no longer exists for the closed session minutes of the Board's Closed Session meetings held on March 14, 2024, April 25, 2024, June 6, 2024, September 12, 2024, October 24, 2024, and December 12, 2024. Furthermore, the Board found that the need for confidentiality continues to exist for the June 9, 2021, February 6, 2025, March 13, 2025, April 24, 2025, and June 5, 2025 minutes and all other closed session minutes not yet approved by the Board for public inspection.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Newly appointed Board Member Caleb Melamed used his time to inform listeners that former IGB Chairman Aaron Jaffe passed away recently. Judge Jaffe served two terms in the role of Board Chairman and was instrumental in establishing much of what now constitutes the gaming industry in Illinois. Aaron Jaffe was 95 years old.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Fruchter began his remarks by noting that today marks the twenty-fourth anniversary of the attacks on the United States at the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Shanksville, PA and that it is appropriate to reflect on those events and to honor the victims of those terrible tragedies. Administrator Fruchter noted that September is National Responsible Gaming Education Awareness Month, an important topic for the IGB and its licensees even in months not named September. The Administrator then highlighted some key ways to support this aim and reiterated the IGB's commitment to encourage and facilitate responsible gaming.

Administrator Fruchter reminded listeners to avoid wagering with unlicensed and unregulated operators who do not offer any of the consumer protections that Illinois' licensed operators provide and cost the State countless amounts in lost tax revenue. The Administrator stated that the IGB strongly supports the recent legislation introduced in the Illinois House and Illinois Senate that would remove these deceptive and fraudulent operators from the Illinois gambling landscape.

Administrator Fruchter announced that the new land-based Hollywood Casino Joliet commenced public gaming operations on August 11th after successfully completing all pre-opening operation assessments and a final practice gaming session.

The Administrator noted that the General Assembly recently passed a bill that amended Section 9(c) of the Illinois Gambling Act to remove licensing requirements for individuals solely employed in non-gaming positions at Illinois casinos. Administrator Fruchter noted some of the changes brought on by this amendment and explained that non-gaming employees will become eligible for the newly established non-gaming ("NG") badge. He stated the IGB is working diligently to implement the new law, but that full implementation may take some time and will require adjustments to existing systems and processes.

Administrator Fruchter informed listeners that the IGB's new, comprehensive advertising rules are currently in effect. He stated that he recognizes that it may take time for the industry to come into compliance, but the IGB expects its licensees to take active steps to reach compliance. If a licensee simply ignores the new rules, it could be subject to discipline.

Fruchter reminded the audience about the continuing 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 noted that Illinois has 17 operating casinos (including 1 “racino”), 14 sportsbooks, 58 active Terminal Operators, 8,766 licensed Video Gaming Establishments and 49,613 live Video Gaming Terminals (“VGTs”). The August 2025 Video Gaming revenue figures were not available at the time of the meeting. In July, VGTs generated Net Terminal Income (“NTI”) of \$262,664,776.15, which yielded a total tax of \$91,932,917.28. The State retained \$78,790,913.46 while municipalities and counties retained \$13,142,003.82. In August, Illinois casinos produced Adjusted Gross Receipts (“AGR”) of \$174,038,919, yielding a State tax of \$41,802,737 while host communities earned \$10,988,597. In June, sports wagering had AGR of \$113,926,183.90 generating a State tax in the amount of \$441,528,807.96 while Cook County received an additional \$1,218,814.91. Added together, from January-August (excluding the July sports wagering and August video gaming numbers), the total gaming tax revenues generated from sports wagering, casino gambling and video gaming was \$1,223,578,552 of which the State retained \$1,041,641,618 while locals received \$181,936,934.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None. As noted on the agenda, the Board anticipated comments from one individual but the speaker failed to appear at the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Board Delegation – Video Gaming Applicants and Key Person Suitability Determinations

The Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed amendments to the Board Resolution to Delegate Certain Authority to the Administrator that adds the delegated authority to issue video gaming licenses to pending location, terminal handler, technician, and sales agent applicants where no known concerns about an applicant’s suitability for licensure are found after review and investigation of the subject applications and to find suitable proposed Key Persons which the Board has previously found suitable as Key Persons for another licensee.

CASINO

OWNERS/ORGANIZATION GAMING LICENSEE ITEMS

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff’s recommendation to renew Casino Queen, LLC d/b/a DraftKings at Casino Queen’s Owners license for a period of four years, retroactive to July 2025 and expiring in July 2029. Furthermore, in addition to current key persons previously approved, the Board found the following individuals and business entities suitable as key persons of Casino Queen, LLC d/b/a DraftKings at Casino Queen:

1. Noel Thomas John Hayden
2. George Thomas Papanier
3. Bally's Corporation
4. Bally's Management Group, LLC
5. EPSG Master SPC Ltd. - Segregated Portfolio A
6. EPSG SPC Ltd. - Segregated Portfolio A
7. Standard RI Ltd.

Key Person Suitability Determination

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to find Tiffany Jo Werner suitable as a key person for Alton Casino, LLC d/b/a Argosy Casino Alton; HC Aurora, LLC d/b/a Hollywood Casino Aurora; and HC Joliet, LLC d/b/a Hollywood Casino Joliet.

SUPPLIER LICENSEE ITEM

Key Person Suitability Determinations

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to find Nicholas Ronald Khin suitable as a key person of IGT.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSEE ITEMS

Level 1 License Applications – Approvals

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to approve Damian Sebastian Wieja as a Level 1 Occupational licensee at 815 Entertainment, LLC d/b/a Hard Rock Casino Rockford.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommendation to approve Travis Lee Clarke as a Level 1 Occupational licensee at Fairmount Park, Inc. d/b/a FanDuel Sportsbook and Horse Racing.

Level 2 and 3 License Applications – Approvals and Denials

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to approve 200 Level 2 Occupational licenses and further to issue a Notice of Denial to the following applicant:

1. Nicole Francis Hubbard (24O008392)

Occupational License Renewals by the Administrator

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

Request for Hearing

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to deny the Request for Hearing

submitted by Kellie Ann Hoffmeister, a denied Level 3 Occupational license applicant.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to deny the Request for Hearing submitted by Kellie Ann Hoffmeister, a denied Level 3 Occupational license applicant.

SPORTS WAGERING

MASTER SPORTS WAGERING LICENSEE ITEMS

Key Person Suitability Determination

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to find Nicholas Ronald Khin suitable as a key person of IGT as it relates to IGT's Sports Wagering Supplier license.

SPORTS WAGERING OCCUPATIONAL LICENSEE ITEMS

SWA Level 2 License Applications – Approvals

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to approve 201 Level 2 sports wagering occupational licenses.

SPORTS WAGERING LICENSE RENEWALS

Level 1 and Level 2 License Renewals – Administrator Delegation

Pursuant to the authority delegated by the Board on February 6, 2025, the Administrator renewed the Level 1 and Level 2 Sports Wagering licenses of the individuals who were licensed or renewed in August or September 2024 who have 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

- SA Entertainment, LLC

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to grant SA Entertainment, LLC a terminal operator license, for a period of four years, expiring September 2029.

TECHNICIANS & TERMINAL HANDLERS

Initial Licenses – Approvals and Denials

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the staff's recommendation to approve 42 Terminal Handler licenses for a period of two years, expiring in September 2027, subject to licensee's payment of the applicable licensing fee on or before October 31, 2025.

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 August or September 2023, for a period of two years expiring in August or September 2027, who have 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 72 Video Gaming Establishment License applications, for a period of two years, expiring in September 2027, subject to licensee's payment of the applicable licensing fee on or before October 31, 2025 and further, to issue Notices of Denial to the following applicants:

1. JK Investments Holding LLC d/b/a KC Liquor (250700057)
2. Munoz Group, Inc. d/b/a Pepe's Mexican Restaurant (240701057)

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 applicant:

1. RUSHI VEER LLC d/b/a SHILOH SPINS & SPIRITS (240703026)

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 August or September 2023, for a period of two years expiring in August or September 2027, who have properly updated their applications and complied with the requirements of the Video Gaming Act and the Board's Rules.

ADJOURN

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.