

Games for Charity Study Commission
Meeting
July 28, 2015
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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: Paul Kelley-Director RCGC, Sudhir Naik-Deputy Director RCGC, Valerie King-Procedures Administrator RCGC, Linda Darrow-Recording Secretary RCGC, Nancy LeVinus-House Committee Researcher, Ed Callahan, Nick Bonardi, Ryan Gloddy, Anthony Fusco, Jamie Timbas, Dick Bouley, Jan DiMarzio, Nick Bonardi, Rick Newman, Jim McIntyre, Howie Steadman and others

Chairman Belair called the meeting to order shortly after 10:00 a.m.

Introduction of Members

Chairman Belair asked each member to introduce themselves and give a brief summation of their title, role, background and experience, if any, with charitable gaming. Director Kelley then introduced members of the staff of the Racing & Charitable Gaming Commission (RCGC) who were in attendance.

Chairman Belair announced that Mr. Rausch will serve as Vice Chairman for the commission.

Dissemination of Work Binders

Chairman Belair asked Director Kelley to hand out the work binders and to give a quick overview of each section.

Review of Statutory Charge

Chairman Belair noted that there are eight (8) members of the commission, five (5) appointed by statute and three (3) appointed by the governor (Belair, Rausch, Presby). He read from HB 1630 FN-A, beginning on page 23, section III:

“The games for charity study commission shall undertake a comprehensive analysis of all gaming activities for the benefit of charity in New Hampshire that are authorized by RSA 287-D and RSA 287-E to determine the most appropriate system for sustaining ongoing resources to charities from gaming in New Hampshire, including a determination as to whether the continued

existence of such authorized games of chance for charity is in the best interest of the citizens of New Hampshire, and, if the games for charity study commission finds that such continued existence is not in the best interest of the citizens, identification of an alternative system for providing comparable resources to charities, and, if the games for charity study commission finds that such continued existence if modified is in the best interest of the citizens, identification of legislative changes that would accomplish the necessary modification in the games of chance for charity system. The games for charity study commission shall assess:

- (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 for charity system is ended.
- (b) Oversight and enforcement costs and sufficiency of taxes and fees to pay for such costs.
- (c) Projected oversight and enforcement costs should they be improved to satisfy best practice regulatory standards.
- (d) Alternative funding mechanisms for charitable organizations.
- (e) The role of game operator employers and primary game operators.
- (f) The prospect of limiting the growth or phasing out of games for charity.
- (g) The prospect of improving and expanding the games of chance for charity system to enhance resources for charities.”

General Ground Rules

Chairman Belair listed the following items to insure the commission meetings stay on point:

- (1) The commission is conducting a public meeting and not a public hearing.
- (2) All commission members are welcome to comment but need to be recognized by the chair before speaking.
- (3) Members of the public are welcome to comment once recognized by the chair, stating their name and affiliation.
- (4) Please direct all written communication to the chairman by email to ibelair@comcast.net.
- (5) The chairman will communicate to commission members via email.
- (6) The Games for Charity Study Commission has a web page at <http://www.racing.nh.gov/charity-study.htm> .

General Discussion on Subject Matter

Discussion ensued around the following items:

- (1) The growth of charitable gaming in New Hampshire and the legislative changes that have been made as a result;
- (2) How to deal with the proliferation of charitable gaming in New Hampshire;
- (3) Concerns revolving around how charitable gaming is governed/supervised/monitored;
- (4) Whether charities are getting their fair share;
- (5) Issues revolving around needed funding to insure proper enforcement of gaming regulations and inspections of gaming facilities;
- (6) HB 169 – table stakes poker (unlimited poker) with two game operators providing feedback (E. Callahan and J. Timbas);
- (7) The WhiteSand Gaming report and its findings;
- (8) Protecting the public by properly regulating gaming; and
- (9) Educating the public and legislators on charitable gaming in New Hampshire.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st at 10:00 a.m. in Room 100 of the Walker Building, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord NH.

New Business

Director Kelley invited the commission members to tour gaming facilities after Labor Day, as their schedules allowed.

Ms. Nancy LeVinus, House Committee Researcher, will assist the commission in obtaining resource material. All requests for this material is to be directed to Chairman Belair.

At 11:55 a.m. by a unanimous roll call vote the commission voted to adjourn the meeting:

Belair	-	Yes
Abrami	-	Yes
Connors	-	Yes
Conte	-	Yes
D'Allesandro	-	Yes
Kennedy	-	Yes
Presby	-	Yes
Rausch	-	Yes