



GAMING ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

March 13, 2025

Microsoft Teams

This is a summary of the Council meeting. A recording of the meeting is held in a digital audio file format and maintained at the Gambling Control Division office at 2681 Palmer St., Suite D, Missoula, MT. Exhibits (if any) are on file in the office of the Gambling Control Division.

DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Jason Johnson (Administrator)
Ashley Corbally (Administrative Officer)
Matt Eckdahl (Technical Services Supervisor)
Melina Bucy (Investigative Supervisor)
Jeremy Craft (GCD Attorney)

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTION

The Council had an open forum discussion regarding all the legislative bills that Gambling Control is following during the legislative session or where there are potential impacts to Gambling Control Division specifically.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Jason Johnson called the meeting to order @ 1:00p, as Chairman Aspenlieder was unable to attend. Members present included: Merle Frank, Garret McFarland, Mike Kenneally, Travis Woltermann, Lee Randall.

Mr. Keanneally motioned to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Mr. McFarland provided a second. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Johnson informed the Council that a letter had been drafted for delivery to Lottery ahead of their RFP, on behalf of the GAC. All Council members received the letter ahead of the meeting for review.

Mr. McFarland motioned to approve sending the letter as proposed, signed by Chairman Aspenlieder. Mr. Woltermann provided a second. The Council approves sending the letter to Lottery.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator Johnson provided a summary to the Council on the various gambling related bills currently in

the legislature and their status. GCD's online gambling bill (HB639) was killed in the 3rd reading in the House, based on false statements from a cryptocurrency lobbyist stating the bill would outlaw cryptocurrency in Montana. While it failed in the house, GCD is considering an avenue to resurrect that bill as a revenue bill.

SB153 – Bet Limit Increase: tabled in committee, but referred to taxation and expected to return as a revenue bill.

HB141- non-profit raffles & credit cards: Flew through the house and seems to have much support, so we can likely anticipate that to move forward.

HB150 - Ownership interest in alcohol and gambling: Has lots of support.

HB668 – “Fake fraternal bill”: Keeping an eye on that one. Passed the House.

Mr. Johnson opened up for comments from the Council. No comments from the Council. Comments were opened up to the public.

Comments: John Iverson, MT Tavern Association. MTA still opposes the non-profit raffle bill, even though it has lots of support. MTA will also be opposing the cigar room bill but will be suggesting an amendment so it doesn't blow open the clean indoor air act.

The next meeting will be scheduled for some time towards the end of the legislative session. Admin Officer, Ashley Corbally, will reach out with possible dates.

Jason Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:24 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ashley Corbally.