

**Members**

Sen. Luke Kenley, Co-Chairperson  
Rep. William Crawford, Co-Chairperson  
Sen. Ron Alting  
Sen. John Broden  
Sen. Robert Deig  
Rep. Trent Van Haafte  
Rep. Jeff Espich  
Rep. Matt Bell  
Ernest Yelton  
William Sheldrake  
Jerrold B. Carrington



# GAMING STUDY COMMITTEE

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Michael Landwer, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: P.L. 182-2009(ss)

## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** December 8, 2009  
**Meeting Time:** 10:00 A.M.  
**Meeting Place:** State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 404  
**Meeting City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 4

**Members Present:** Sen. Luke Kenley, Co-Chairperson; Rep. William Crawford, Co-Chairperson; Sen. John Broden; Sen. Robert Deig; Rep. Trent Van Haafte; Rep. Jeff Espich; Rep. Matt Bell; Ernest Yelton; William Sheldrake.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Ron Alting; Jerrold B. Carrington.

Sen. Kenley called the meeting to order at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Sen. Kenley announced that the Committee's proposed final report would not contain recommendations for legislative changes to the Indiana gaming laws. Sen. Kenley remarked on the place of the gaming industry in the Indiana economy and the importance of the industry remaining viable.

Mr. Yelton, Executive Director of the Indiana Gaming Commission (IGC), submitted to the

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be obtained electronically by requesting copies at [licrequests@iga.in.gov](mailto:licrequests@iga.in.gov) Hard copies can be obtained in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for hard copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for hard copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/> No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Committee a report on the participation of minority owned business enterprises (MBE) and women owned business enterprises (WBE) in contracts with the Indiana riverboats and casinos (Exhibit A). Mr. Yelton described the IGC's efforts to monitor MBE/WBE participation over the years. Mr. Yelton reported that the IGC has detected some decline in MBE/WBE participation. Mr. Yelton explained that the IGC has not yet taken corrective action because the decline is reflected in a single year of data and that another year of decline could trigger IGC action.

Rep. Crawford described the state's efforts to foster MBE/WBE participation and praised the state for including women owned enterprises in its programs.

Rep. Crawford stressed that it is essential to effectively monitor the contracts that are cited in MBE/WBE compliance documents. He urged the public disclosure of the contract information on the Internet so that the information can be confirmed or mistakes detected.

Mr. Yelton reported that the IGC is developing software to improve its ability to monitor contracts and that it is looking at the information on a quarterly basis.

The Committee then turned its attention to its proposed final report. Mr. Hooten described the various components of the report and explained that the proposed findings concerning out-of-state competition and movement within Indiana were adapted from the reports submitted to the Committee by Mr. Landers at the Commission's previous meetings.

The Committee discussed the remaining findings concerning other tax, regulatory, and administrative issues. The proposed findings concerning land-based gaming, referenda with respect to gaming in new locations, the riverboat admission tax, racino taxation, local development agreements, and local revenues generated the most discussion. The debate led to a few changes to the proposed findings.

The Committee agreed to amend the finding concerning land-based casinos in the following manner:

- (1) The Committee believes that if ~~some~~ Indiana casinos were permitted to convert to land-based casinos it may offer them a better opportunity to compete with out-of-state gaming interests.

The Committee also agreed to amend the finding concerning referenda on gaming in new locations:

- (1) The Committee believes that a city or county-wide referendum ~~is an appropriate measure of public support for~~ **should be required for** casino gaming in that city or county.

The Committee added a finding to the proposed report stating that the Committee recognized that the French Lick Casino often incurs admission tax liability for resort visitors who enter the casino but do not gamble and that an owner given approval for a land-based casino will encounter the same hindrance to business development if the admission tax is not altered.

The Committee voted 7-0 to adopt the amended report.

Sen. Kenley then adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:15 p.m.