

Michigan Gaming Control Board History

The Michigan Gaming Control & Revenue Act, as amended (Public Act 69 of 1997; MCL 432.201), established the Michigan Gaming Control Board as a Type I agency within the Michigan Department of Treasury. The Board consists of five unpaid members, not more than three of whom may be members of the same political party. The Governor is responsible for appointing the Board members, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

On November 22, 1996, Governor Engler appointed Michigan Horse Racing Commissioner Nelson Westrin to serve as interim executive director of Michigan Gaming.

On December 20, 1996, the Governor announced his five appointees to the Board:

- Mr. Thomas Denomme, Chairman (term expires December 31, 2000)
- Ms. Paula Blanchard (one of five original appointees; term expired December 31, 1999... reappointed by Governor Engler to four-year term expiring December 31, 2003)
- Mr. Rich Davis (one of five original appointees; term expired in December 31, 1999... reappointed by Governor Engler to four-year term expiring December 31, 2003)
- Mr. Taylor Segue III (term expires December 31, 2000)

- In January 1997, Mr. Segue resigned from the Board.
- In February 1997, Gov. Engler appointed Ms. Karen Batchelor Farmer. Ms. Farmer resigned from the Board in February 1998.
- In May 1998, Gov. Engler appointed Dr. Jim Holley. Dr. Holley resigned from the Board in December 1998.
- In March 1999, Gov. Engler appointed Hon. Geraldine Bledsoe Ford (term expires December 31, 2000).
- Hon. Michael Stacey (one of five original appointees; term expired in December 1998... reappointed by Governor Engler to four-year term expiring December 31, 2002)

The first major order of business for the Board was the development of a comprehensive set of gaming rules (known as Administrative Rules) which detail licensing and regulatory oversight of the casino licensure process, casino licensees, casino employees and a wide range of casino suppliers. The Board also set about hiring appropriate staff to oversee Michigan's new privately owned casino industry. In August 1997, the draft Rules were approved by the Board, then went through the process for promulgated rulemaking required by Michigan's Administrative Procedures Act (they were adopted by the Board in March 1998, and went into effect in June 1998 after being filed with the Department of State).