



**Notice of Public Forum  
New York State Gaming Commission**

**Topic:** Problem Gambling and Commercial Casino Development  
**Place:** Meeting Room 7, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York  
**Date and Time:** Wednesday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.  
**Contact:** Carolyn Hapeman (518-388-3415 / [info@gaming.ny.gov](mailto:info@gaming.ny.gov))

**Oral Testimony by Invitation**

**SUBJECT:** Problem Gambling and Commercial Casino Development

**PURPOSE:** The Upstate New York Gaming Economic Development Act requires the state and commercial casinos to “develop programs ... to combat compulsive and problem gambling” and requires the Gaming Commission to approve an applicant's problem gambling plan before issuing a gaming facility license.

The Commission will take testimony from knowledgeable professionals, advocates and public officials, as well as academics and practitioners in the field of problem gambling in an effort to guide the development of an industry best practices framework for casino operators to establish a responsible gambling program and for regulators to appropriately address compulsive and problem gambling related issues throughout the gaming industries.

**Wednesday, April 9**

**10:00 A.M.  
Meeting Room 7  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY**

New York State Gaming Commission Chair Mark D. Gearan will host a public forum to discuss what to expect in terms of problem gambling impact and challenges when commercial casinos open in the state, as well as to identify industry best practices for both casino operators and regulators to implement to address those challenges.

Pursuant to the Upstate New York Gaming and Economic Development Act of 2013, New York State will select up to four commercial casino operators in three regions in Upstate New York in the coming months.

The Commission is charged with evaluating whether or not each applicant is suitable for a commercial casino license. This includes approval of a casino applicant's problem gambling plan before issuing or renewing any such license.

Additionally, the Commission is tasked with creating and implementing regulations regarding the conduct and operation of these casinos. The Commission needs to have a comprehensive understanding of gambling addiction in order to put forth the best policies possible.

This forum will be an opportunity for the Commission and the public to hear from experts in the fields of addiction and psychiatry, gaming industry stakeholders and problem gambling treatment providers. Areas to be explored will include:

- Expectations of problem gambling prevalence once commercial casinos open
- Specific components of a casino applicant's problem gambling plan
- Industry best practices for operators and regulators
- The efficacy of policies in other commercial gaming jurisdictions
- The efficacy of self-exclusion programs and how they could be improved

Oral testimony is by invitation only and will be followed by questions from Commissioners and the staff of the Commission.

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