



Raynham Park meets with Massachusetts Gaming Commission over slot machine bid



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Raynham Park may make a bid for the state's sole slot parlor, jumping into competition with Plainridge Racecourse.

By **JON CHESTO**

It looks like [Plainridge Racecourse](#) is going to get some competition for that slot machine parlor after all.

Last week, a [Massachusetts Gaming Commission](#) spokeswoman had said [Raynham Park](#) had not yet scheduled a scoping meeting with the commission's consultants, in preparation for applying for the state's sole slots parlor license. Raynham, one of the state's four racetrack sites, was long seen as a potential bidder for the slots license.

But the MGC spokeswoman said a Raynham Park scoping meeting with the commission's consultants did take place last week. Plainridge is still one step ahead of Raynham: She says Plainridge has filed the initial \$400,000 application fee while Raynham hasn't yet done so. The initial applications, along with the fee, are due by Jan. 15.

It's possible other competitors could emerge before that deadline. The other developers that have met with the commission's consultants have all been discussed as potential bidders for one of the state's three resort casino licenses, not the slots license.

But one of them — like, say, Neil Bluhm and his Chicago-based Rush Street Gaming — could easily switch to the less expensive approach of a slot machine parlor.

Raynham Park owner George Carney told the State House News Service in August that he would build a hotel, movie theater and bowling alley at the old dog race track (greyhound racing ended there a few years ago), along with the slots parlor. Carney also said he would like to have a new commuter rail stop along the proposed New Bedford rail extension, if that project gets built.

The state's gambling law, passed in 2011, allows for up to three resort casinos and one slot machine parlor. The

winning slots licensee would need to invest at least \$125 million in the project, and the minimum license fee would be \$25 million. The state would receive revenues from a 40 percent tax on slot parlor revenues.

Suffolk Sterling Racecourse, [MGM Resorts International](#) and [Penn National Gaming](#) are the only other bidders aside from Plainridge that have submitted their \$400,000 so far. Suffolk is pursuing a resort casino proposal in East Boston; MGM and Penn National are competing to build a resort casino in Springfield.

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