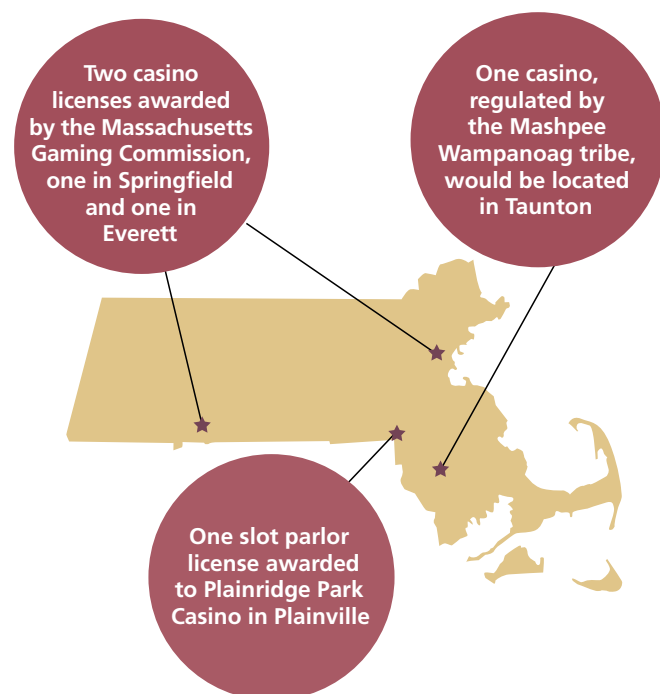


Casino-Style Gambling Introduced in Massachusetts

In November 2011, legislation passed permitting casino-style gambling in the state for the first time.

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) has awarded two casino licenses. One license was awarded to Wynn for a \$1.7 billion development in Everett near Boston. The second license was awarded to MGM for a \$950 million development in Springfield in Western Massachusetts. The MGC has also awarded one slot parlor license to Plainridge Park Casino in Plainville. A third casino, owned by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, has been proposed for Taunton in the Southeastern region of the Commonwealth.



The casino law in Massachusetts is unique in making the role of research central to improving responsible gambling and reducing problem gambling in the Commonwealth. Section 71 of the Expanded Gaming Act includes three important parts:

1. Understanding the social and economic effects of expanded gambling
2. Carrying out a study of problem gambling and the existing prevention and treatment programs that address its harmful results, before any casinos open in Massachusetts
3. Collecting scientific information about the neuroscience, psychology, sociology, and public health impacts of gambling

Section 71 requires the MGC to establish research goals and make annual recommendations to the Legislature. The research funded under the Expanded Gaming Act is important to fully understanding the effects of expanded gambling in the Commonwealth. The findings will be used in the development of interventions to minimize gambling-related harm and to increase responsible gambling in Massachusetts.

SEIGMA PROJECT OVERVIEW

SEIGMA is a project that uses experts from several disciplines to carry out the different parts of the MGC research effort. The project team is dedicated to working closely with many other groups throughout the Commonwealth. The study uses a state-of-the-art design, rigorous data collection and research methods, and a careful analytic approach to establish the effects of casino gambling at state, regional, and local levels. The SEIGMA team collects its own data as well as using data gathered by other organizations. The SEIGMA study is funded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.