

Pennsylvania State Police

Joint Committee Hearing

Senate Community, Economic and Recreational
Development Committee

&

House Gaming Oversight Committee

May 17, 2016



Good morning Chairpersons and members of the committees. I am Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Bucar, Deputy Commissioner of Staff for the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). With me today is Lieutenant Kevin Conrad, PSP Bureau of Gaming Enforcement (BGE), and Mr. William Box, Director of PSP's Fiscal Division. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you here today.

Act 71 (The Gaming Act) became law in July 2004 and also provided for a PSP complement increase of 50 members for the newly established BGE. The BGE is responsible for enforcing the criminal laws of the Commonwealth at licensed gaming facilities, fingerprinting applicants for gaming and racing licenses and permits, and taking appropriate law enforcement action on any referral from the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB). Members assigned to the BGE investigate crimes occurring at licensed gaming facilities, as well as enforce the criminal provisions of the Horse Racing Development and Gaming Act.

As the gaming industry was expanded, there was a need for additional PSP members to be assigned to the BGE. BGE staffing levels have been adjusted periodically over the years to meet operational needs as more casinos were established.

- The FY 2006/07 budget authorized 65 additional members for BGE.
- The FY 2008/09 budget authorized 14 additional members for BGE
- The FY 2012/13 budget authorized 12 additional members for BGE.

Twelve casinos are currently operational within the Commonwealth. Full staffing for these 12 casino sites and BGE Headquarters requires 145 personnel (141 enlisted and 4 civilian positions). The PSP Fiscal Division monitors the BGE complement and works closely with the Governor's budget office when BGE complement increases are needed. The BGE complement is over and above the

regular Department complement and is not counted against the Department's legislatively established complement cap.

BGE is divided into two Divisions, the Administrative Division and Operations Division. The Administrative Division provides logistical support to all BGE Offices and personnel. Duties of the Administrative Division include evaluating and processing fingerprint submissions for gaming and racing applicants, liaising with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and State Horse Racing/Harness Commission, maintaining and creating records of intelligence, providing oversight of vehicle maintenance, assisting with preparation of the BGE budget, sustaining BGE communications, managing equipment inventory, and ensuring training requirements are met. The Operations Division consists of three components: Western Section, Central Section, and Eastern Section, with each Section consisting of four casinos. Division members stationed within the casinos are responsible for enforcing relevant statutes, handling investigations, collecting and preserving evidence, conducting surveillance, gathering intelligence, and fingerprinting applicants for gaming and racing licenses and permits.

Due to staffing and budgetary constraints, up to six 8-hour shifts per week, at each site, do not have dedicated BGE staffing. Troopers from the respective PSP Stations are diverted to casinos from county patrol zones when there are calls for police service and no dedicated BGE members are on duty. Notably, law enforcement and support services provided by PSP members not assigned to the BGE are not reimbursed by the casinos.

All expenses incurred by BGE personnel are reimbursed by a 1401 account (administered by the Department of Revenue) funded directly by the casinos. PSP law enforcement and support services provided by non-BGE segments of the Department are not reimbursed to the PSP via the casino 1401 account. The recent determination by the Department of Revenue to raise the

account assessment has prompted questions about what is driving the need for the increase. With respect to the cost of PSP resources, the answer to this question is rather straightforward – the increase is due to rising salary and benefits of personnel.

PSP’s BGE appropriation for Fiscal Year 2007-08 was \$11,573,000, and that request included funding for 99 personnel; the Governor’s executive budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17 called for \$28,491,000 and provided funding for 145 personnel. Over the past ten year period, the average Trooper salary has increased 30.62 percent, while the average benefit rate has increased 82.04 percent.

FISCAL YEAR	AVERAGE SALARY	AVERAGE BENEFIT RATE
2006-07	\$2,604.26	60.40%
2007-08	\$2,717.66	60.58%
2008-09	\$2,698.17	60.79%
2009-10	\$2,872.96	57.50%
2010-11	\$3,003.86	51.39%
2011-12	\$3,160.29	53.53%
2012-13	\$3,158.84	65.31%
2013-14	\$3,110.14	78.71%
2014-15	\$3,338.45	83.55%
2015-16	\$3,341.73	94.98%
2016-17	\$3,401.60	109.95%

Moreover, as the number of gaming facilities has grown over the ten year period, the number of PSP personnel assigned to the BGE has concomitantly increased. However, it is important to make an “apples to apples” comparison when examining increases in our BGE appropriations. Below is a chart that depicts what the personnel costs would have been, assuming there were 141

enlisted members (current complement) assigned to BGE for each fiscal year, using the average salaries and actual benefit costs that were in effect for those time periods:

FISCAL YEAR	PERSONNEL COST (for 141 enlisted members)
2006-07	\$15,771,465.71
2007-08	\$16,398,130.55
2008-09	\$16,424,422.61
2009-10	\$17,129,270.64
2010-11	\$17,151,693.31
2011-12	\$18,424,420.45
2012-13	\$19,664,644.67
2013-14	\$21,159,555.40
2014-15	\$23,156,901.28
2015-16	\$25,031,123.89
2016-17	\$26,698,895.99

I believe that our BGE does an outstanding job. Last year alone our members investigated 4,760 crimes in the casinos. More than half of these were for the crimes of theft and forgery. Members also fingerprinted more than 12,000 individuals pursuant to our duties under the Gaming Act, and captured 557 wanted persons with outstanding warrants.

In closing, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.