

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 840
Ways and Means

(Delegate Luedtke)

Budget and Taxation

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight - Membership

This bill expands the membership of the Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight to include the following:

- a designee of the Director of the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency;
- a designee of the Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs;
- a representative of the gaming industry appointed by the Governor;
- a representative of a labor organization appointed by the Governor;
- an expert in gambling addiction appointed by the Governor; and
- an economist or academician appointed by the Governor whose field of expertise is the gaming industry or the tourism industry.

The members of the committee serve at the pleasure of the Presiding Officer, the Governor, or the public official who appointed them.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any travel expenses incurred by the additional committee members can be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 1 of the 2012 second special session (SB 1) created the Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight to examine the status of the State's gaming program and the implementation of new laws relating to gaming. The committee consists of four senators appointed by the President of the Senate and four delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House, and at least one senator and one delegate serving on the committee must be a member of the minority party. The Department of Legislative Services must provide staffing for the committee. A member of the committee may not receive compensation for serving on the committee, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses. The committee must report any findings and recommendations on or before December 31 of each year.

Background: The State has authorized six video lottery operation licenses in Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Cecil, Prince George's, and Worcester counties with a maximum of 16,500 VLTs allotted in the State. Licensees are also authorized to operate table games in the facilities with the approval of the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission. Penn Cecil in Cecil County, Ocean Downs in Worcester County, and Maryland Live in Anne Arundel County are open to the public, while a video lottery facility at the Rocky Gap Lodge and Resort in Allegany County is expected to open by mid-2013 and a facility in Baltimore City is scheduled to open in mid-2014. The Video Lottery Facility Location Commission may award a license for a Prince George's County facility to begin operations the earlier of July 1, 2016, or 30 months after the video lottery facility in Baltimore City is open to the public.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services, Governor's Office, Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2013
ncs/rhh

Analysis by: Heather N. Ruby

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510