

# HOUSE BILL 963

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HB 1014/18 – W&M

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By: **Delegates Ebersole, D. Barnes, Kaiser, Luedtke, Walker, and Washington**  
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Expansion of Commercial Gaming – Referendum – Sports Wagering**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that the General Assembly may authorize, by law, the State  
4 Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue certain sports wagering licenses;  
5 providing that a license may be issued only to certain entities; declaring the intent  
6 of the General Assembly that certain revenues be used for dedicated purposes;  
7 submitting this Act to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State; requiring the  
8 State Board of Elections to do certain things necessary to provide for and hold the  
9 referendum; and generally relating to sports wagering in the State.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
11 That:

12 (a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the General Assembly may authorize,  
13 by law, the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue a license to offer sports  
14 wagering in the State.

15 (b) The license authorized under subsection (a) of this section may be issued only  
16 to the holder of:

17 (1) a video lottery operation license; or

18 (2) a license for mile thoroughbred racing or harness racing.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General  
20 Assembly that, if the voters of this State adopt a referendum that authorizes sports  
21 wagering in the State, the State revenues generated by sports wagering be used for  
22 dedicated purposes including the funding of public education.

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the provisions of Section 1 of  
24 this Act, which authorize the General Assembly to authorize, by law, the State Lottery and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Gaming Control Commission to issue sports wagering licenses to certain licensees in the  
2 State, are subject to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State as provided in Section  
3 4 of this Act, and upon voter approval of this Act at the general election to be held in  
4 November 2020, legislation shall be required to provide for the operation, regulation, and  
5 disposition of proceeds of sports wagering in the State.

6 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That before Section 1 of this Act  
7 becomes effective, it first shall be submitted to a referendum of the qualified voters of the  
8 State at the general election to be held in November 2020, in accordance with Article XIX,  
9 § 1(e) of the Maryland Constitution. The State Board of Elections shall do those things  
10 necessary and proper to provide for and hold the referendum required by this section. If a  
11 majority of the votes cast on the question are “For the referred law”, this Act shall become  
12 effective on the 30th day following the official canvass of votes for the referendum, but if a  
13 majority of the votes cast on the question are “Against the referred law”, this Act, with no  
14 further action required by the General Assembly, shall be null and void.

15 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of  
16 Section 4 of this Act and for the sole purpose of providing for the referendum required by  
17 Section 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019.