

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 136
Ways and Means

(Delegate Cardin)

Election Law - Campaign Contributions - Alterations and Prohibition on Sports
and Event Wagering Business Entities

This bill expands an existing prohibition against campaign contributions to nonfederal candidates in the State by specified persons associated with a video lottery operation license. The bill expands the prohibition by also applying the prohibition to specified persons associated with a sports and event wagering license, and, further, applying it to an executive officer employed by a video lottery operator or sports and event wagering business entity in the State. **The bill is contingent on the enactment of legislation implementing sports and event wagering in the State, and if such legislation is not enacted on or before adjournment *sine die* of the 2025 regular session of the General Assembly, the bill is null and void.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill expands the existing prohibition to apply to (1) an applicant for, or holder of, a sports and event wagering license; (2) a person who owns an interest in the operation of a sports and event wagering business entity; and (3) an executive officer employed by a video lottery operator or sports and event wagering business entity in the State. Under the prohibition, those persons may not, directly or indirectly, make a

contribution to (1) the campaign finance entity of a candidate for any nonfederal public office in the State or (2) any other campaign finance entity organized in support of a candidate for any nonfederal public office in the State.

Current Law: Under State campaign finance law, an applicant for, or holder of, a video lottery operation license under Title 9, Subtitle 1A (“Video Lottery Terminals”) of the State Government Article, or a person who owns an interest in the operation of a video lottery facility (under Subtitle 1A) in this State, may not, directly or indirectly, make a contribution to (1) the campaign finance entity of a candidate for any nonfederal public office in the State or (2) any other campaign finance entity organized in support of a candidate for any nonfederal public office in the State. “Own” means having a beneficial or proprietary interest of at least 5% in the property or business of an applicant or licensee. This prohibition was enacted under Chapter 1 of the second special session of 2012, which expanded commercial gaming in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 15, 2021
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