
**Testimony in Support of House Bill 500 with Amendment
State Lottery - Unclaimed Prizes - Distribution to Local Boards of Education**

**House Ways and Means Committee
February 20, 2020**

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The Maryland State Education Association applauds the sponsor of House Bill 500 for introducing this bill to redirect unclaimed lottery prize winnings from the promotion of more gambling to supporting public education instead. The recommendations from the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) will require a significant investment, and there is a long history in Maryland of connecting legal gambling revenue to support public education.

In light of the need for additional revenue to fund the Kirwan Commission recommendations, we request an amendment to direct the unclaimed prize money to The Education Trust Fund or The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund so that spending determinations can be made within the context of implementing the recommendations.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 500 with this amendment.