



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association
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TO: House Ways & Means Committee

FROM: Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

DATE: February 29, 2024

RE: **HOUSE BILL 1218** – State Lottery – Internet Sales Authorization and Distribution of Proceeds

On behalf of Maryland’s convenience stores and energy distributors, MAPDA urges the committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB1218.

This legislation would require Maryland’s State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (“Agency”) to adopt regulations that establish a program allowing lottery players to play from any internet connected device – a program known as iLottery.

To date, there has not been an analysis published on the impact on Maryland’s brick-and-mortar lottery agents. Maryland’s retail lottery agents are a critical piece of the state’s lottery program. Creating an online program will likely have a large effect on the sales of the more than 4,100 agents that offer lottery in their stores.

Allowing the Agency to create and operate an online lottery program is a massive change. iLottery programs require players to link to a funding source – bank account or credit card. This is a big policy question for lawmakers. Should the state be encouraging Marylanders to link their checking accounts, savings accounts, or credit cards to an online gaming platform operated by a state agency?

Removing the retail lottery agent from the equation will also lead to losses for these businesses in other areas. Less foot traffic means fewer sales. Fewer sales means less sales tax revenue on the items players purchase in their stores – snacks, groceries, etc.

For these reasons, MAPDA respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report on HB1218.

Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.