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HB277 Frederick County - Local Gaming and Authorization for Electronic Tip Jar Dispensers

Tip Jar games have long been available in Frederick County as fund-raising activities in the fraternal, veterans, charitable and volunteer fire departments, rescue and ambulance companies, and their auxiliary organizations as means to support their operations and fund their philanthropic activities and community programs. These games are regulated and licensed locally by the Frederick County Gaming Commission.

Clubs like the Elks, AMVETS, Moose, Eagles, and VFW offer various benefits to their members and the community. These clubs like the Elks often engage in civic activities, promoting patriotism and community involvement.

Other common benefits associated with these organizations are:

Community Service:

Social Interaction:

Support for Veterans:

Fraternity Clubs, like the Elks and Moose, often promote a sense of fraternity or sisterhood among members, creating a supportive and close-knit community. In the case of the Mountain City Elks Lodge in Frederick's historical African American part of town, this lodge is the center of social activity that helps bind this traditional

community. The Elks open their lodge at no charge for memorial services, gatherings after funerals, and Scout groups.

These organizations have deep commitments to philanthropy and charitable giving. Members may take pride in contributing to causes that align with their clubs' missions. Proceeds from tip jar gaming are invested in the community supplementing essential government services and strengthening the social safety net.

This Frederick County Delegation local legislation, focused only on Frederick County, makes a single change to this gaming activity by allowing the dispensing of the tip jar tickets electronically. The bill does not expand the entities that currently are eligible for local licenses to play tip jars.

The bill comes about as a request from the charitable clubs and fraternal and veterans organizations to address the current labor shortage and reduce hand-to-hand contact. These organizations are finding it difficult to get all shifts covered in their social rooms. Servers attend to customers for food and drinks; it is a burden to sell, dispense, and redeem the tip jar tickets. An electronic dispensing machine will free up servers' time to tend to customer orders while reducing the labor needed to attend to the tip jars.

This legislation that was unanimously approved by the Frederick County Delegation is the same legislation that has been introduced for the past two sessions. The only change to the bill is the addition of the word "dispensing" to provide greater clarity that this electronic machine is physically dispensing the tip jar tabs and that is its sole function. I ask the House Ways and Means Committee to give a favorable report to this Frederick County Delegation bill HB 277.

