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Legislative District 28
Charles County

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees

Local Revenues

Chair, Racing and Gaming

Chair, Southern Maryland
House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support

HB 954 Gaming – Electronic Instant Bingo Machines – Paper Tickets Option

February 22, 2024

Good afternoon, Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and members of the Ways and Means Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Edith Patterson, sponsor of House Bill 954 – Gaming – Electronic Instant Bingo Machines – Paper Ticket Options.

HB 954 is very simple. It requests that electronic machines offering a game of instant bingo provide a player the *option* to print a paper ticket for each game of instant bingo played, removing the requirement that instant bingo electronic machines must print paper tickets for every instant bingo game play.

Currently, the law requires these machines to print a paper ticket with every single play, regardless of whether the player wins or not. In fact, if the player wins a game, the machine prints a different ticket - a voucher- that the player can take to the cashier to cash in their prize. Each machine has a tray at the bottom to collect these tickets, but some players choose to sit at a machine for long periods of time, accruing quite the stack of tickets that often fall and pile on the floor. The staff do their best to continually clean up, but sometimes it's not always possible. In fact, there was an incident where an elderly woman's cane slipped on some of these paper tickets. She was ok, but these paper tickets are virtually unnecessary and a waste of paper and staff resources.

This bill will simply give a player the option whether they want to print the ticket or not. Again, this is not the winning voucher ticket - that will always print.

I respectfully urge you to vote favorably for HB 954. Thank you for your consideration.

Delegate Edith J. Patterson