

## **Favorable**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB 0717**

February 19, 2026

**TO:** Members of the House Ways & Means Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 717 - Baltimore City – Raffles – Organizations Affiliated With Professional Baseball and Football Teams

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) supports House Bill (HB) 717.

HB 717 would add the ability for an organization that is affiliated with a team that plays in Baltimore and is a part of the National Football League to the types of organizations authorized to conduct raffles. The legislation would define the geographic boundaries within which those raffles would be able to be conducted, alter the expiration timeline for permits issued to organizations, and remove the existing sunset on the ability of certain organizations to hold these raffles.

The BCA supports the removal of the sunset on the existing law and the addition of an organization affiliated with the Baltimore Ravens to conduct similar raffles. The raffles that have been underway at Oriole Park at Camden Yards have been successful and help to increase engagement at baseball games as well as raising money for charity.

This bill would not have a large fiscal or operational impact on City operations, and we believe it will have a positive impact on the City and region.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 717.

# Letter of Support

Uploaded by: Robbyn Lewis

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
BALTIMORE CITY DELEGATION

ROBBYN LEWIS  
CHAIR

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Chair

JACQUELINE T. ADDISON  
VICE CHAIR

Ways and Means Committee

MALCOLM P. RUFF  
2ND VICE CHAIR

130 Taylor House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MARLON AMPREY

REGINA T. BOYCE

Dear Chairwoman, Wilkins

LUKE H. CLIPPINGER

FRANK M. CONAWAY

MARK EDELSON

The Baltimore City Delegation received and reviewed, Baltimore City - Raffles - Organizations Affiliated with Professional Baseball and Football Teams.

ELIZABETH EMBRY

SAMUEL I. ROSENBERG

The Baltimore City Delegation voted House Bill 717 favorable on Friday, February 13, 2026.

STEPHANIE SMITH

SEAN A. STINNETT

Please see the attached voting tally sheet. Thank you for your consideration.

MELISSA WELLS

CAYLIN YOUNG

Sincerely,

Delegate Robbyn Lewis, Chair

Baltimore City House Delegation

# **2026 HB 717 Maryland Center of Excellence on Probl**

Uploaded by: Blair Inniss

Position: UNF



February 19, 2026

House Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
131 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 717 – Baltimore City - Raffles - Organizations Affiliated With  
Professional Baseball and Football Teams

Dear Chair Wilkins:

The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (the Center) opposes *HB 717 – Baltimore City - Raffles - Organizations Affiliated With Professional Baseball and Football Teams*. This bill allows an unlimited number of raffles to be conducted by an organization that, among other things, is affiliated with a professional National Football League team that plays its home games in Baltimore City. Raffles involve consideration (payment), chance (drawing), and a prize, thus meeting the definition of gambling. The Center does not support expansion of any form of gambling in Maryland. If you would like more information, please contact Heather Eshleman at [heshleman@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:heshleman@som.umaryland.edu) or (667) 214-2120.

Sincerely,

Heather Eshleman, MPH

Director of Operations  
Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling  
Office Direct: 667-214-2120  
Email: [heshleman@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:heshleman@som.umaryland.edu)