

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1174
Ways and Means

(Delegate McMillan, *et al.*)

Video Lottery Limitation and Casino Prohibition Act of 2004

This constitutional amendment prohibits the General Assembly from authorizing any expanded or additional locations for video lottery or casino-style gaming. The constitutional amendment does not apply to currently authorized forms of gambling.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Any expenditures associated with the constitutional amendment could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Specified types of gambling are allowed in Maryland. This includes the State lottery and wagering on horse racing. Bingo, bazaars, and gaming nights are allowed for some nonprofit organizations on a county-by-county basis. Several counties permit for-profit bingo. In addition, some nonprofit organizations in Eastern Shore counties are allowed to operate up to five slot machines, provided that at least 50% of the proceeds go to charity. Video lottery terminals (VLTs) are not authorized for operation in the State.

Background: Over the past several legislative sessions, various proposals have been introduced to authorize VLTs at the State's horse racing tracks or other tourist destinations in the State.

For more information about VLT gambling, gambling and horseracing in Maryland, and recent legislation regarding VLT gambling, consult the *Legislators' Guide to Video Lottery Gambling*.

Local Expenditures: The Maryland Constitution requires that proposed amendments to the constitution be publicized either: (1) in at least two newspapers in each county, if available, and in at least three newspapers in Baltimore City once a week for four weeks immediately preceding the general election; or (2) by order of the Governor in a manner provided by law. State law requires local boards of elections to publicize proposed amendments to the constitution either in newspapers or on specimen ballots; local boards of elections are responsible for the costs associated with these requirements. It is anticipated that the fiscal 2005 budgets of local election boards will contain funding for notifying qualified voters about proposed constitutional amendments for the 2004 general election in newspapers or on specimen ballots.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1103 of 2003, an identical bill, was not reported from the House Ways and Means Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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mam/mdr

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