

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 216  
Budget and Taxation

(Senator Colburn)

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**Video Lottery Terminals - Statewide Straw Ballot**

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This bill requires the State Board of Elections (SBE) to include a straw ballot question on the November 2008 general election ballot. The question will ask State voters if they support locating video lottery terminals (VLTs) licensed by the State for commercial gaming purposes at up to three licensed horse racetracks and three nontrack location destinations. The vote is advisory only.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2007.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** SBE could include the question on November 2008 general election ballots with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** VLTs for commercial gaming purposes are not authorized anywhere in the State. 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.

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

State. Numerous states have authorized VLT gambling. For more information on prior year introductions and other state VLT regimes, consult the *Legislators' Guide to Video Lottery Terminal Gaming*.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 42 of 2006, an identical bill was scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee but the hearing was cancelled.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland State Board of Elections, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2007  
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