

SENATE BILL 470

C7
HB 1014/18 – W&M

9lr1911
CF 9lr2442

By: **Senator West**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2019

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Expansion of Commercial Gaming – Referendum – Sports Wagering**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that the General Assembly may authorize, by law, the State
4 Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue certain sports wagering licenses;
5 providing that a license may be issued only to certain entities; declaring the intent
6 of the General Assembly that certain revenues be used for dedicated purposes;
7 submitting this Act to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State; requiring the
8 State Board of Elections to do certain things necessary to provide for and hold the
9 referendum; and generally relating to sports wagering in the State.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
11 That:

12 (a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the General Assembly may authorize,
13 by law, the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue a license to offer sports
14 wagering in the State.

15 (b) The license authorized under subsection (a) of this section may be issued only
16 to the holder of:

17 (1) a video lottery operation license; or

18 (2) a license for thoroughbred racing or harness racing.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General
20 Assembly that, if the voters of the State adopt a referendum that authorizes sports
21 wagering in the State, the State revenues generated by sports wagering be used for
22 dedicated purposes including the funding of public education.

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That before Section 1 of this Act,
24 which authorizes additional forms or expansion of commercial gaming, becomes effective,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 it first shall be submitted to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State at the general
2 election to be held in November 2020, in accordance with Article XIX, § 1(e) of the Maryland
3 Constitution. The State Board of Elections shall do those things necessary and proper to
4 provide for and hold the referendum required by this section. If a majority of the votes cast
5 on the question are “For the referred law”, this Act shall become effective on the 30th day
6 following the official canvass of votes for the referendum, but if a majority of the votes cast
7 on the question are “Against the referred law”, this Act, with no further action required by
8 the General Assembly, shall be null and void.

9 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of
10 Section 3 of this Act and for the sole purpose of providing for the referendum required by
11 Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019.