

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 45

(Senator Patterson)

Budget and Taxation

Ways and Means

Use of Gaming Proceeds - Studies

This bill requires the Maryland Racing Commission (MRC), in coordination with the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (SLGCA), to study the distribution and use of local impact grants from gaming proceeds. The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (the Center) within the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in coordination with SLGCA, must study the use of the Problem Gambling Fund. The Department of Commerce, in coordination with SLGCA, must study the use of video lottery terminal (VLT) proceeds distributed to the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Businesses Account (SMWOBA). By December 1, 2021, MRC, the Center and BHA, and Commerce, each in coordination with SLGCA, must report their respective findings to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021, and terminates on June 30, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal. It is assumed that the various State entities can conduct the required studies using existing personnel and without substantial additional expenditures in FY 2022.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Local Impact Grants

From the VLT proceeds at each facility, generally 5.5% are distributed as local impact grants to local governments in which a video lottery facility is operating. The grants are distributed by the Division of Racing within the Maryland Department of Labor. Generally, all or a portion of the local impact grants must go to the local jurisdictions with video lottery facilities to be used for infrastructure improvements; facilities; public safety; sanitation; economic and community development, including housing; and other public services and improvements primarily in the communities in immediate proximity to the video lottery facilities.

In Allegany County, the grants may also be used to pay down debt incurred by the county in the construction and related costs for the golf course, lodge, and other improvements in Rocky Gap State Park, and at least 20% of the local impact grants must be used for capital projects for municipalities and nonprofit organizations in the county.

In Baltimore City, 50% of the local impact grants must be distributed directly to the South Baltimore Gateway District Management Authority. Beginning in fiscal 2033, Baltimore City must transfer \$3.5 million of local impact grant funds to the State Lottery Fund until the bonds, debt, or other financial instruments issued or made available by the Maryland Stadium Authority for a racing facility redevelopment reach final maturity.

In Prince George's County, 40% of local impact grants, not to exceed \$15 million annually, must be used to address infrastructure needs related to Maryland Route 210 in the county, and the State may reimburse the county for these amounts. Additionally, \$125,000 of its local impact grants from VLT proceeds must be provided annually to be used in communities within 2.5 miles northeast of the video lottery facility in Prince George's County.

A local development council (LDC) must be established in each area where a video lottery facility is located. An LDC generally consists of 15 members appointed by the chief executive of the county in which the LDC is located, in consultation with the senators and delegates who represent the communities surrounding the facility and the respective county councils, city councils, or county commissioners. Prior to spending local impact grant funds, a county or municipality must develop, in consultation with the LDC, a multi-year plan for services and improvements to be used with local impact grant funds. A county or municipality must submit the plan to the LDC for review and comment before adopting the plan or spending grant funds.

Problem Gambling Fund

Maryland's casino operators pay annual assessments into the Problem Gambling Fund of \$425 per VLT per year and \$500 per table game per year to fund programs to combat gambling addiction. These funds are managed by MDH.

The purpose of the Problem Gambling Fund is primarily to provide funding for problem gambling treatment and prevention programs, including specified services. Fund revenues are used to operate a 24-hour hotline for compulsive and problem gamblers, provide counseling and support services to compulsive and problem gamblers, and develop and implement free or reduced-cost problem gambling treatment and prevention programs. Expenditures from the Problem Gambling Fund are to be used to establish an outreach program for compulsive and problem gamblers, including individuals who requested to be on a voluntary exclusion list established by the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission, for the purpose of participating in problem gambling treatment and prevention programs. After satisfying requirements, any unspent funds may be expended by MDH on drug and other addiction treatment services.

SMWOBA

Generally, 1.5% of VLT proceeds at each video lottery facility must be distributed to SMWOBA. Commerce must make grants from the account to eligible fund managers to provide investment capital and loans to small, minority, and women-owned businesses in the State. Except for money received from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund, Commerce must ensure that fund managers allocate at least 50% of available funds to eligible businesses in the jurisdictions and communities surrounding the State's video lottery facilities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 771 of 2020 passed the Senate and was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: HB 388 (Delegate Turner) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 18, 2021
rh/jrb Third Reader - March 29, 2021
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 29, 2021

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510