This bill expands an existing prohibition against campaign contributions to nonfederal candidates in the State by specified persons associated with a video lottery operation license. The bill expands the prohibition by also applying the prohibition to specified persons associated with a sports and event wagering license, and, further, applying it to an executive officer employed by a video lottery operator or sports and event wagering business entity in the State. The bill is contingent on the enactment of legislation implementing sports and event wagering in the State, and if such legislation is not enacted on or before adjournment sine die of the 2025 regular session of the General Assembly, the bill is null and void.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill expands the existing prohibition to apply to (1) an applicant for, or holder of, a sports and event wagering license; (2) a person who owns an interest in the operation of a sports and event wagering business entity; and (3) an executive officer employed by a video lottery operator or sports and event wagering business entity in the State. Under the prohibition, those persons may not, directly or indirectly, make a
contribution to (1) the campaign finance entity of a candidate for any nonfederal public office in the State or (2) any other campaign finance entity organized in support of a candidate for any nonfederal public office in the State.

**Current Law:** Under State campaign finance law, an applicant for, or holder of, a video lottery operation license under Title 9, Subtitle 1A (“Video Lottery Terminals”) of the State Government Article, or a person who owns an interest in the operation of a video lottery facility (under Subtitle 1A) in this State, may not, directly or indirectly, make a contribution to (1) the campaign finance entity of a candidate for any nonfederal public office in the State or (2) any other campaign finance entity organized in support of a candidate for any nonfederal public office in the State. “Own” means having a beneficial or proprietary interest of at least 5% in the property or business of an applicant or licensee. This prohibition was enacted under Chapter 1 of the second special session of 2012, which expanded commercial gaming in the State.

**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 15, 2021

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