

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1543
Ways and Means

(Delegate Stein)

Budget and Taxation

Gaming - Sports Wagering Facilities - Request for Relocation

This bill authorizes competitively awarded Class B-1 and B-2 sports wagering facility licensees to submit a written request to the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission (SLGCC) to relocate a Class B sports wagering facility. SLGCC may grant a relocation request if the licensee was originally issued a Class B sports wagering facility license before October 1, 2023, and the new location for the sports wagering facility is within the same county, complies with specified location requirements, and is approved by the Sports Wagering Application Review Commission (SWARC). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State revenues. The State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency and SWARC can approve any relocation requests with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 492 of 2020, a constitutional amendment approved by the voters at the November 2020 general election, authorized sports and event wagering, contingent upon implementation legislation passed by the General Assembly. Chapter 356 of 2021 implemented sports wagering in the State and provides for regulation of sports wagering and fantasy gaming competitions. Licensees receive 85% of proceeds from sports wagering and fantasy gaming and the State receives 15%, as well as license fee revenues. Any winnings on a sports event not claimed within 182 days after the wager is won revert to the Problem Gambling Fund.

Sports wagering licenses are awarded by SWARC, the members of which were appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House. SWARC must review applications for sports wagering facility and mobile sports wagering licensure, and SLGCC and the Department of Legislative Services must staff SWARC. SWARC terminates on January 1, 2028, but the Governor may reconstitute SWARC under specified circumstances.

Specified Class A (casinos, professional sports stadiums, and horse racing licensees) and Class B (specified horse racing tracks, off-track facilities, and specified bingo halls) sports wagering facility licensees designated under the law are eligible to receive licenses under a noncompetitive process. SWARC may also conduct a competitive process to award an additional 30 Class B-1 or B-2 facility licenses and 60 mobile sports wagering licenses. SWARC may not award a Class B sports wagering facility license to an applicant who is eligible for or holds a Class A sports wagering facility license.

Generally, SWARC may not award a Class B-1 or B-2 sports wagering facility license to an applicant whose sports wagering facility will be located:

- within a 15-mile radius of a Class A-1 or A-2 sports wagering facility located in Allegany, Cecil, or Worcester counties;
- with respect to an application for a sports wagering facility license submitted before June 1, 2025, within a 15-mile radius of specified Class B-1 or B-2 sports wagering facilities in Charles County;
- with respect to an application for a sports wagering facility license submitted before June 1, 2025, within a 10-mile radius of specified Class B-1 or B-2 sports wagering facilities in Carroll County;
- with respect to an application for a sports wagering facility license submitted before June 1, 2025, within a 5-mile radius of specified Class B-1 or B-2 sports wagering facilities in Frederick County;
- within a 1.5-mile radius of a Class A-1 or A-2 sports wagering facility located in counties other than Allegany, Cecil, or Worcester counties; or
- within a 1.5-mile radius of any other Class B-1 or B-2 sports wagering facility.

Chapter 638 of 2023 authorized SLGCC and SWARC to consider a request to amend a Class B-2 sports wagering facility license application for the purpose of altering the proposed location of the facility if a sports wagering facility license was awarded to the applicant by February 15, 2023, and a written request to amend the application was received by December 31, 2023.

For additional information on sports wagering, see the **Appendix – Maryland Gaming**.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 1000 (Senator Hettleman) - Budget and Taxation.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2025
js/jrb Third Reader - March 17, 2025
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Analysis by: Heather N. MacDonagh

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

Appendix – Maryland Gaming

The State of Maryland has authorized and awarded six video lottery operation licenses in Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Cecil, Prince George’s, and Worcester counties with a maximum number of 16,500 video lottery terminals (VLTs) allotted in the State. The opening date and the number of VLTs and table games in operation for each facility as of December 2024 are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1 Number of VLTs and Table Games in Maryland

<u>Casino</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Opening Date</u>	<u>VLTs</u>	<u>Table Games</u>
Hollywood Casino	Cecil	September 2010	730	23
Ocean Downs	Worcester	January 2011	867	19
Maryland Live!	Anne Arundel	June 2012	3,800	179
Rocky Gap Casino	Allegany	May 2013	634	16
Horseshoe Casino	Baltimore City	August 2014	1,348	115
MGM National Harbor	Prince George’s	December 2016	2,305	211

VLT: video lottery terminal

Source: State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Department of Legislative Services

Video Lottery Terminals and Table Game Revenues

The estimated revenues from VLTs and table games in fiscal 2026 through 2030 are shown in **Exhibit 2**. A total of \$2.0 billion in gross gaming revenues is projected in fiscal 2026, including \$618.7 million to be distributed to the Education Trust Fund.

Exhibit 2
Distribution of Estimated VLT and Table Game Revenues in Maryland
Current Law
(\$ in Millions)

	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2027</u>	<u>FY 2028</u>	<u>FY 2029</u>	<u>FY 2030</u>
VLTs Distribution					
Education Trust Fund	\$524.8	\$532.6	\$539.7	\$552.5	\$560.3
Lottery Operations	13.8	14.0	14.2	14.4	14.6
Purse Dedication Account	83.1	84.1	85.2	86.3	87.5
Racetrack Renewal Account	13.8	12.4	12.6	7.1	6.7
Local Impact Grants	76.2	77.1	78.1	79.1	80.2
Business Investment	20.8	21.0	21.3	21.6	21.9
Licensees	652.4	660.2	669.0	677.8	686.9
Total VLTs	\$1,384.9	\$1,401.4	\$1,420.0	\$1,438.9	\$1,458.1
Table Games Distribution					
Education Trust Fund	\$94.0	\$95.1	\$96.4	\$97.8	\$99.1
Local Impact Grants	31.3	31.7	32.1	32.6	33.0
Licensees	501.2	507.4	514.4	521.4	528.5
Total Table Games	\$626.4	\$634.3	\$643.0	\$651.7	\$660.6
Total VLTs and Table Games	\$2,011.4	\$2,035.7	\$2,063.0	\$2,090.6	\$2,118.7
Total Education Trust Fund	\$618.7	\$627.8	\$636.1	\$650.2	\$659.4

VLT: video lottery terminal

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: Board of Revenue Estimates; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

Chapter 492, a constitutional amendment approved by the voters at the November 2020 general election, authorized sports and event wagering, contingent upon implementation legislation passed by the General Assembly. Chapter 356 implemented sports wagering in the State and provides for regulation of sports wagering and fantasy gaming competitions. Licensees receive 85% of proceeds from sports wagering and fantasy gaming and the State receives 15%, as well as license fee revenues. State revenues from sports wagering and fantasy gaming and their distributions in fiscal 2026 through 2030 are shown in **Exhibit 3**.

Exhibit 3
Distribution of Estimated State Sports Wagering and
Fantasy Competition Revenues
Current Law
(\$ in Millions)

	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2027</u>	<u>FY 2028</u>	<u>FY 2029</u>	<u>FY 2030</u>
State Revenues					
Sports Wagering – Retail	\$1.9	\$1.9	\$1.9	\$1.9	\$1.8
Sports Wagering – Mobile	95.4	97.3	98.7	100.2	101.7
Sports Wagering License Fees	0.0	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fantasy Competition	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Total	\$98.3	\$104.4	\$101.5	\$102.9	\$104.4
Distribution					
Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Fund ¹	\$98.3	\$104.4	\$101.5	\$102.9	\$104.4
SMWOBSWA Fund ²	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Problem Gambling Fund ³	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8

SMWOBSWA: Small, Minority-Owned, and Women-Owned Business Sports Wagering Assistance

¹ The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Fund is intended to assist in providing adequate funding for early childhood education and primary and secondary education to provide a world-class education to students in Maryland.

² Five percent of the class A-1 license fees (\$2.0 million each) and of the class A-2 license fees (\$1.0 million each) are paid into the SMWOBSWA Fund. Five percent of renewal fees are transferred to the SMWOBSWA Fund.

³ Player winnings not claimed within 182 days are distributed to the Problem Gambling Fund.

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: Board of Revenue Estimates; Department of Legislative Services