

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 86

(Senator Waldstreicher)

Budget and Taxation

Online Sports Wagering - Problem Gambling Resources - Required Contact Information

This bill requires a mobile sports wagering licensee to prominently publish on the homepage of its online sports wagering website and mobile application a specified statement with a link to the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling's website.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

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.

Problem Gambling

Video lottery operation licensees must pay an annual fee of \$425 per video lottery terminal for a Problem Gambling Fund administered by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission has established an annual fee of \$500 per table game for the Problem Gambling Fund. The Problem Gambling Fund is used to fund programs to treat and prevent gambling addiction. After satisfying specified requirements, any unspent funds in the Problem Gambling Fund may be expended by MDH on drug and other addiction treatment services.

The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling is a program of the University of Maryland School of Medicine and funded by MDH's Behavioral Health Administration through the Problem Gambling Fund. The primary goal of the center is to minimize the risks and problems associated with gambling in the State.

Additional Comments: The State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency notes that most mobile sports wagering licensees also operate in states outside of Maryland and that having a Maryland specific hyperlink on the licensee's homepage may lead to confusion for individuals seeking assistance outside of the State. However, most licensees have a Maryland homepage.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling; University System of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

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