

# HOUSE BILL 758

J1, C7

6lr1992

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By: **Delegates Hornberger, Bouchat, Buckel, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaufman, Kipke, Miller, and Reilly**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Problem Gambling – Authorized Uses of Funds – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the purposes for which the Secretary of Health may make  
4 grants from or agreements for the use of State and federal funds with respect to the  
5 provision of services for problem gamblers; altering the purposes for which the  
6 Maryland Department of Health may utilize the Problem Gambling Fund; and  
7 generally relating to problem gambling and the Problem Gambling Fund.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Health – General  
10 Section 19–804(a)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – State Government  
15 Section 9–1A–33(b)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 19–804.

22 (a) **[(1)]** The Secretary shall make grants from or agreements for the use of State  
23 funds, including the funds provided under § 9–1A–33 of the State Government Article, and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



federal funds to help public agencies or nonprofit organizations operate the network of clinically appropriate services for problem gamblers who reside in the State to provide the following:

- [(i)] (1)** Inpatient and residential services;
- [(ii)] (2)** Outpatient services;
- [(iii)] (3)** Intensive outpatient services;
- [(iv)] (4)** Continuing care services;
- [(v)] (5)** Educational services;
- [(vi)] (6)** Services for victims of domestic violence; and
- [(vii)] (7)** Other preventive or rehabilitative services or treatment.

**[(2)** Research and training that are designed to improve or extend these services are proper items of expense.]

### **Article – State Government**

9–1A–33.

(b) (1) (i) There is a Problem Gambling Fund in the Maryland Department of Health.

(ii) The purpose of the Fund is primarily to provide funding for problem gambling treatment and prevention programs, including:

- 1. inpatient and residential services;
- 2. outpatient services;
- 3. intensive outpatient services;
- 4. continuing care services;
- 5. educational services;
- 6. services for victims of domestic violence; and
- 7. other preventive or rehabilitative services or treatment.

(2) The Problem Gambling Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(3) Money in the Problem Gambling Fund shall be invested and reinvested by the Treasurer, and interest and earnings shall accrue to the Fund.

(4) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of this subsection, expenditures from the Problem Gambling Fund shall be made only by the Maryland Department of Health to:

(i) establish a 24–hour hotline for compulsive and problem gamblers and to provide counseling and other support services for compulsive and problem gamblers;

(ii) establish an outreach program for compulsive and problem gamblers, including individuals who requested placement on the voluntary exclusion list established by the Commission under § 9–1A–24 of this subtitle, for the purpose of participating in problem gambling treatment and prevention programs;

(iii) develop and implement free or reduced cost problem gambling treatment and prevention programs, including the programs established under Title 19, Subtitle 8 of the Health – General Article; [and]

(iv) develop and implement free or reduced cost problem gambling treatment and prevention programs targeted at individuals with problem gambling issues related to sports wagering, participation in fantasy competitions, and other forms of wagering, whether legal or illegal, conducted in the State or through online means; AND

**(V) PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT TO SUPPORT PEERS PROVIDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH PROBLEM GAMBLING ISSUES WHO ARE RECEIVING TREATMENT OR PARTICIPATING IN PREVENTION PROGRAMS DESCRIBED UNDER ITEMS (III) AND (IV) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

(5) After satisfying the requirements of paragraph (4) of this subsection, any unspent funds in the Problem Gambling Fund may be expended by the Maryland Department of Health on drug and other addiction treatment services.

(6) Expenditures from the Problem Gambling Fund shall be made in accordance with an appropriation approved by the General Assembly in the annual State budget or by the budget amendment procedure provided for in § 7–209 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.