

HOUSE BILL 1612

C7
HB 922/25 – W&M

6lr3716
CF SB 970

By: **Delegate Ebersole**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Ways and Means, February 26, 2026

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Sports Wagering~~ **Gaming – Campaign Financing Contributions and Study on**
3 **Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring, rather than authorizing, certain sports wagering licensees~~
5 ~~and sports wagering operators that advertise in the State to contract with~~ repealing
6 the prohibition on applicants for and holders of video lottery operation licenses and
7 persons who own an interest in video lottery facility operations in the State from
8 directly or indirectly making contributions to certain campaign finance entities;
9 requiring the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to study and report to the
10 Governor and the General Assembly, on or before a certain date, on certain matters
11 concerning certain independent evaluators for ~~certain purposes~~ sports wagering
12 content; and generally relating to ~~the evaluation of sports wagering content~~ gaming.

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

18 BY repealing
19 Article – Election Law
20 Section 13-237
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 ~~Article - State Government~~

4 ~~9-1E-17.~~

5 ~~(d) A sports wagering licensee or sports wagering operator that advertises in the~~
6 ~~State [may] SHALL contract with an independent evaluator licensed under subsection (b)~~
7 ~~of this section to evaluate and rate the sports wagering licensee's sports wagering content,~~
8 ~~sports wagering experts, sports wagering influencers, and content partners.~~

9 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on the~~
10 ~~State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission issuing licenses as required under §~~
11 ~~9-1E-17 of the State Government Article to at least three independent evaluators.~~

12 Article - Election Law

13 [13-237.

14 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

15 (2) "Own" has the meaning stated in § 9-1A-01 of the State Government
16 Article.

17 (3) "Video lottery facility" has the meaning stated in § 9-1A-01 of the State
18 Government Article.

19 (4) "Video lottery operation license" has the meaning stated in § 9-1A-01
20 of the State Government Article.

21 (b) This section applies to the following persons:

22 (1) an applicant for a video lottery operation license;

23 (2) a holder of a video lottery operation license; or

24 (3) a person who owns an interest in the operation of a video lottery facility
25 in this State.

26 (c) This section does not apply to gaming activity that an eligible organization is
27 authorized to conduct under the Criminal Law Article.

28 (d) A person subject to this section may not, directly or indirectly, make a
29 contribution to:

1 (1) the campaign finance entity of a candidate for any nonfederal public
2 office in the State; or

3 (2) any other campaign finance entity organized in support of a candidate
4 for any nonfederal public office in the State.]

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, 2027,
6 the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency shall study and report to the Governor and
7 the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on:

8 (1) the number of independent evaluators licensed by the State Lottery and
9 Gaming Control Commission under § 9–1E–17 of the State Government Article;

10 (2) the utilization of independent evaluators by sports wagering licensees
11 and sports wagering operators in the State to evaluate sports wagering content in
12 accordance with § 9–1E–17 of the State Government Article;

13 (3) the utilization of independent evaluators by sports wagering licensees
14 and sports wagering operators in other states to evaluate sports wagering content; and

15 (4) whether any other states require sports wagering licensees or sports
16 wagering operators licensed in those states to contract with independent evaluators to
17 evaluate sports wagering content.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall
19 take effect January 1, 2027.

20 SECTION ~~3~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, ~~subject to Section 2~~ except
21 as provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.