

SENATE BILL 862

C7, J1
SB 706/25 – B&T

6lr3489
CF 6lr3499

By: **Senator Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Gaming – Problem Gambling – Prevalence Study and Fund Revenue**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to conduct certain
4 prevalence studies concerning problem and pathological mobile gambling; altering
5 the distribution of certain fantasy competition and sports wagering proceeds; and
6 generally relating to problem gambling and the Problem Gambling Fund.

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

12 BY adding to
13 Article – State Government
14 Section 9–1A–33(b)(7)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – State Government
19 Section 9–1D–04 and 9–1E–12(b)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
23 Article – State Government
24 Section 9–1E–12(a)
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

Article – Health – General

19–804.

(a) (1) The Secretary shall make grants from or agreements for the use of State funds, including the funds provided under § 9–1A–33 of the State Government Article, and 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) Inpatient and residential services;
- (ii) Outpatient services;
- (iii) Intensive outpatient services;
- (iv) Continuing care services;
- (v) Educational services;
- (vi) Services for victims of domestic violence; and
- (vii) 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.

(b) The Secretary shall conduct [a]:

(1) A prevalence study and replication prevalence studies to measure the rate of problem and pathological IN–PERSON gambling in the State; AND

(2) A PREVALENCE STUDY AND REPLICATION PREVALENCE STUDIES TO MEASURE THE RATE OF PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL MOBILE GAMBLING IN THE STATE.

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary shall contract with an independent researcher to conduct the prevalence studies.

(2) The Secretary shall utilize the most current psychiatric or diagnostic criteria for problem and pathological gambling as the basis for the prevalence studies.

(d) **(1)** The initial prevalence study **ON PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL IN-PERSON GAMBLING IN THE STATE** shall be completed on or before July 1, 2009.

(2) THE INITIAL PREVALENCE STUDY ON PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL MOBILE GAMBLING IN THE STATE SHALL BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2031.

(e) Replication prevalence studies shall be conducted no less than every 5 years with measures taken to permit comparisons between the initial prevalence study and subsequent replication prevalence studies.

(f) Services under this subtitle shall be provided by public agencies or, under contract, by nonprofit organizations.

Article – State Government

9–1A–33.

(b) **(7) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2027, AND EACH NOVEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, ON HOW THE FUNDS IN THE PROBLEM GAMBLING FUND HAVE BEEN EXPENDED ON PROBLEM GAMBLING TREATMENT AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

9–1D–04.

(a) A fantasy competition operator shall retain **[85%]** 84% of the proceeds and pay the remainder to the Commission.

(b) **(1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE** Commission shall distribute the proceeds paid under subsection (a) of this section to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund established under § 5–206 of the Education Article.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL DISTRIBUTE 1% OF THE PROCEEDS FROM FANTASY COMPETITIONS TO THE PROBLEM GAMBLING FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9–1A–33 OF THIS TITLE.

9–1E–12.

(a) **(1)** The Commission shall account to the Comptroller for all of the revenue under this subtitle.

(2) The proceeds from sports wagering, less the amount retained by the licensee under subsection (b)(1) of this section, shall be under the control of the Comptroller and distributed as provided under subsection (b) of this section.

(b) (1) (i) Except as provided in subparagraphs (ii), (iii), and (iv) of this paragraph, all proceeds from sports wagering shall be electronically transferred monthly into the State Lottery Fund established under Subtitle 1 of this title.

(ii) A Class A–1 and A–2 sports wagering facility licensee shall retain [85%] **84%** of the proceeds from sports wagering conducted at the locations described in § 9–1E–09(a) of this subtitle.

(iii) A Class B–1 and B–2 sports wagering facility licensee shall retain [85%] **84%** of the proceeds from sports wagering conducted at the location described in the licensee’s application.

(iv) A mobile sports wagering licensee shall retain [80%] **79%** of the proceeds from online sports wagering received by the licensee.

(2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, all proceeds from sports wagering in the State Lottery Fund established under Subtitle 1 of this title shall be distributed on a monthly basis, on a properly approved transmittal prepared by the Commission to the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Fund established under § 5–206 of the Education Article.

(ii) **1. THE COMMISSION SHALL DISTRIBUTE 1% OF ALL SPORTS WAGERING PROCEEDS TO THE PROBLEM GAMBLING FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9–1A–33 OF THIS TITLE.**

2. For fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, 5% of the proceeds [attributable to mobile] **FROM ONLINE** sports wagering shall be deposited in the General Fund.

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