

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.



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

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 19–804.

5 (a) (1) The Secretary shall make grants from or agreements for the use of State
6 funds, including the funds provided under § 9–1A–33 of the State Government Article, and
7 federal funds to help public agencies or nonprofit organizations operate the network of
8 clinically appropriate services for problem gamblers who reside in the State to provide the
9 following:

10 (i) Inpatient and residential services;
11 (ii) Outpatient services;
12 (iii) Intensive outpatient services;
13 (iv) Continuing care services;
14 (v) Educational services;
15 (vi) Services for victims of domestic violence; and
16 (vii) Other preventive or rehabilitative services or treatment.

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

19 (b) The Secretary shall conduct [a]:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 **Article – State Government**

12 9–1A–33.

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

19 9–1D–04.

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

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

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

29 9–1E–12.

30 (a) (1) The Commission shall account to the Comptroller for all of the revenue
31 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.

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

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

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2026.