

SENATE BILL 970

C7
SB 708/25 – B&T

6lr3635
CF HB 1612

By: ~~Senator Zucker~~ **Senators Zucker and Ferguson**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Budget and Taxation, February 22, 2026

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 3, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sports Wagering – Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring, rather than authorizing, certain sports wagering licensees
4 and sports wagering operators that advertise in the State to contract with certain
5 independent evaluators for certain purposes; and generally relating to the evaluation
6 of sports wagering content.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – State Government
9 Section 9–1E–17(d)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – State Government**

15 9–1E–17.

16 (d) A sports wagering licensee or sports wagering operator that advertises in the
17 State [may] **SHALL** contract with an independent evaluator licensed under subsection (b)
18 of this section to evaluate and rate the sports wagering licensee’s sports wagering content,
19 sports wagering experts, sports wagering influencers, and content partners.

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 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is contingent on the
2 State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission issuing licenses as required under §
3 9–1E–17 of the State Government Article to at least three independent evaluators.

4 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of this
5 Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.