

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 758  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Hornberger, *et al.*)

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**Problem Gambling - Authorized Uses of Funds - Alterations**

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This bill expands the authorized uses of the Problem Gambling Fund to include providing reimbursement to support peers providing behavioral health services to individuals with problem gambling issues who are receiving treatment or participating in prevention programs. The bill also restricts authorized uses of State and federal funds – including funds from the Problem Gambling Fund – such that they may not be used for research and training designed to improve or extend specified services for problem gamblers.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill primarily alters the purposes for which existing funds may be used. To the extent it requires administrative changes, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) can handle them with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:**

*Problem Gambling Fund*

The Problem Gambling Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund in MDH intended to provide funding for problem gambling treatment and prevention programs, including inpatient and residential services, outpatient services, intensive outpatient services, continuing care

services, educational services, services for victims of domestic violence, and other preventative or rehabilitative services or treatment.

Expenditures from the fund must be made only by MDH to (1) establish a 24-hour hotline for counseling and other support services for compulsive and problem gamblers; (2) establish an outreach program for compulsive and problem gamblers; (3) develop and implement free or reduced-cost problem gambling treatment and prevention programs; and (4) develop and implement free or reduced-cost problem gambling treatment and prevention programs targeted to individuals with problem gambling issues related to sports wagering, participation in fantasy competitions, and other forms of wagering conducted through online means. After funding these items, any unspent funds may be expended by MDH on drug and other addiction treatment services.

The special fund is capitalized with annual fees paid by video lottery operation licensees on each of their video lottery terminals and table games in use during the year. The fiscal 2027 budget as introduced includes \$6.1 million in special fund expenditures from the fund.

#### *Network of Clinically Appropriate Services to Problem Gamblers*

The Secretary of Health must establish a network of clinically appropriate services to problem gamblers throughout the State. The Secretary must make grants from or agreements for the use of State funds, including the funds provided through the Problem Gambling Fund, and federal funds to help public agencies or nonprofit organizations operate the network of clinically appropriate services for problem gamblers who reside in Maryland to provide inpatient and residential services, outpatient services, intensive outpatient services, continuing care services, educational services, services for victims of domestic violence, and other preventive or rehabilitative services or treatment. Research and training that are designed to improve or extend these services are proper items of expense.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2026  
caw/jc

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