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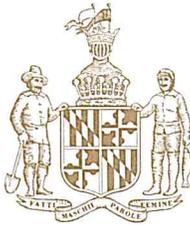
Budget and Taxation Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill- 4 - Gaming - Sports Betting - Implementation
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
January 29th, 2020
1:00pm
Position: SUPPORT

Good afternoon Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 4 - Gaming - Sports Betting - Implementation.**

As drafted this legislation, which is subject to voter referendum, authorizes a sports wagering licensee to conduct and operate sports wagering in the State, including online. A video lottery operator may apply to the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission (SLGCC) for a sports wagering license and pay a one-time application fee of \$2.5million. The license may be renewed annually for \$250,000. Of the sports wagering proceeds, 80% is distributed to the sports wagering licensee and the remaining 20% is distributed to the Education Trust Fund (ETF).

Marylander's continue to be at a disadvantage when it comes to the 14 other states that currently allow sports betting. We have been hearing from our constituents who would like the opportunity to participate in sports betting but are prohibited by law.

This legislation creates an opportunity for Marylander's to decide whether they want sports betting in their state. It also provides safeguards that protect consumers, ensures age appropriate participation and makes sure Maryland receives its fair share of revenue. All of this can help toward funding Marylander's priorities, with the \$22 million in more in revenue we are expecting.

There is still ongoing discussion surrounding what amendments may be offered to this legislation. Ultimately, I am confident we will have legislation that Marylander's want.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 5. Thank you for your kind consideration.