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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Senate Bill 325 – Constitutional Amendment – Gaming - Expansion

February 5, 2020

Mister Chairman and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

Senate Bill 325 will allow voters, at the next general election, to remove the restriction that requires any expansion of gaming to be approved through referendum by a majority of the voters. With this legislation the General Assembly will be able to authorize additional forms of commercial gaming EXCEPT for the expansion of the number of video lottery terminals (VLTs) or video lottery operation licenses. The expansion of VLT terminals or operation licenses (i.e. casinos), would still have to go before the voters at a general election.

As technology changes in the gaming industry, Maryland is at a disadvantage if we must wait for a general election in order for the voters to approve additional forms or expansion of commercial gaming. This is resulting in a loss of revenues to other states. Senate Bill 325 will allow the general assembly to act on expansion of gaming in a timely manner and accelerate the collection of revenues generated from these activities.

This bill also makes technical changes which update the Maryland Constitution to reflect current law.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 325.