



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 4, 2020

To: House Way & Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of HB 225 - Gaming - Sports Wagering – Implementation

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 225, legislation establishes that the General Assembly may authorize, by law, that the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission may issue a license to offer sports wagering in the State to a video lottery operation licensee or a licensee for thoroughbred racing or harness racing. The bill also provides the General Assembly's intent that, if the voter referendum is approved, State revenues generated by sports wagering be used for dedicated purposes, including public education. If this bill is passes it will be sent to a referendum to be voted on during the 2020 general election.

Maryland Farm Bureau understands the need for funding to improve the education system in Maryland. We have special interest in improving the opportunities for Maryland students to be exposed to the agriculture careers that are directly tied to STEM curriculum. This bill helps secure some of the needed funding to meet those challenges ahead. In addition, Maryland Farm Bureau wants to make sure that the whole state has the opportunity to be involved in sports betting and by including the racetracks and Off-Track Betting facilities, the rural areas of the state are much more involved.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy: Any expansion into other forms of gambling such as table games and sports book similar to Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) should benefit the equine industry and agricultural education programs.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 225 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396