

4 February 2020

From: Patric S. Enright

To: Ways and Means Committee, Maryland House of Delegates

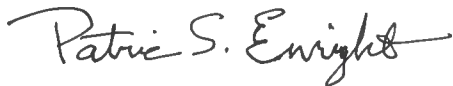
Subject: House Bill-225 (HB-225) Gaming-Sports Wagering-Implementation: SWA

1. I do not object to the introduction of sports wagering into the repertoire of gaming methods at the current six casinos in Maryland. I support this Bill HB-225, in principle, as long as the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission maintains absolute control over licensing, operations, venues, personal involved and payouts on behalf of all Maryland citizens.
2. However, I cannot support this HB-225, as drafted, without a significant amendment. The portion of HB-225 I strongly believe needs to be amended appears on page 17, lines 30-31 and page 18, lines 1-2. I object vehemently to this proposed 80%/20% proceeds division for the following reasons:
  - a. Table games gambling at the five Maryland casinos was presented to Maryland voters and approved by them. The proceeds division at the introduction of table games was stated as 80% to the casinos and 20% to the Education Trust Fund (ETF). I objected to this split as being ridiculously and unfairly lopsided in favor of the casinos at a time when the need to support various aspect of funding for education in Maryland rose to critical levels as well as the need to provide relief for Maryland taxpayers. However, the promise of an 80/20 percent split was dashed when the 6<sup>th</sup> casino was opened in Prince George's County. Upon the opening of this casino the 20% portion of table games proceeds for the ETF dropped to 15% with the remaining 5% allocated to local impact mitigation. I believe we Maryland citizen taxpayers were flummoxed into accepting this ridiculous, insulting and paltry proceeds split.
  - b. Now enters a proposal for sports betting with its stated 80% of the proceeds to the sports wagering licensee and the paltry remainder (i.e. 20%) to the ETF. After having been flummoxed once, I remain

extremely skeptical about the “sanctity” of the 20% going to the ETF where it would play a critical role. In addition, I also strongly believe the 80%/20% split is grossly lopsided in favor of the sports wagering licensees and must be amended to present at least 60% to the licensees and 40% (i.e. remainder) to the ETF. This split would be more equitable since it is the State of Maryland hosting this enterprise. I also must insist that the ETF allocation be fixed by statutory guarantee.

Maryland’s Education Trust Fund needs all the help it can get from gambling enterprises since it will be relied upon to provide enormous amounts of funding to our critical education initiatives and provide relief for Maryland taxpayers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patric S. Enright".

Patric S. Enright

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