



**House Ways & Means Committee
February 25, 2021**

**House Bill 940
Gaming - Regulation of Fantasy Gaming Competitions and Implementation of
Sports Wagering**

Letter of Information

NCADD-Maryland offers this letter of information regarding House Bill 940. Throughout Maryland's continual expansion of legalized gambling, NCADD-Maryland has worked with the General Assembly to ensure measures have been put into place to prevent and treat problem gambling. With the passage of the ballot measure in November of 2020 to allow sports betting, we want to express gratitude for the inclusion in this implementation bill the expansion of the uses of the Problem Gambling Fund to include treatment and prevention programs aimed at helping people who develop issues with sports wagering. We believe given this expansion, it would also be appropriate to increase the revenue that is dedicated to the Fund.

In addition, NCADD-Maryland supports specific elements offered by our partners at the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling. These include:

- Requiring sports betting operators to implement responsible gaming programs;
- Requiring sports betting licensees to collect data on gambling activity and make such data publicly available to qualified researchers to help support mitigation efforts;
- Including the Maryland Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800-GAMBLER) on all printed or downloadable gambling documents or forms, such as tournament brackets, betting lines, or betting odds; and
- Ensuring internet, mobile, and online gambling options include all the above, plus personal responsible gambling data, and limit setting options.

In expanding the opportunity for gambling, Maryland must ensure it is investing properly in problem gambling education and prevention efforts along with treatment services to address gambling-related disorders.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.