

MARYLAND RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



**HB1179 – State Lottery - Sales of Lottery Tickets and Tickets From Instant Ticket
Lottery Machines – Commissions.
Budget and Taxation Committee
March 30, 2022**

Position: Favorable

Background: HB1179 would increase the lottery agent sales commission from 5.5% to 6% of gross lottery sales.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Association strongly supports HB1179, which would increase the lottery agent sales commission from 5.5% to 6% of gross lottery sales. The legislature supported this provision in the past with its inclusion in the gaming expansion legislation that passed in 2012. The 2014 BRFA ultimately ended this proposed increase before it could come to fruition.

As casino presence has increased in Maryland and particularly now after the beginning of sports betting in the state, small businesses that are licensed lottery agents risk lost revenue from lottery ticket sales commissions as Marylanders go elsewhere to spend their gaming dollars. HB1179 would allow these businesses to retain a higher commission from these sales, and indeed the fiscal note predicts that it would have a meaningful impact on small businesses.

With this in mind, we would urge a favorable report on HB1179. Thank you for your consideration.