

RONALD N. YOUNG

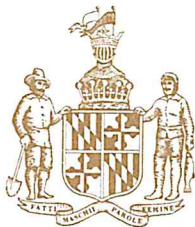
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair, Executive Nominations Committee

Senate Chair, Joint Subcommittee on
Program Open Space/Agricultural Land
Preservation

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



The Senate of Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 19, 2022

SUPPORT SB155

State Lottery - Instant Ticket Lottery Machines - Fraternal Organizations

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Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

Between 2009 and 2020 the nation saw a drop of nearly 50% in homeless veterans.³ Maryland saw a 24% decrease in total homelessness and 30% decline in unsheltered homelessness between 2015 and 2020. Despite this drop, roughly 2,000 veterans have consistently touched Maryland's homeless programs since 2017. Similarly, since 2017 Maryland's Point-in-Time estimates have held at around 500 homeless veterans.^{2,4}

Something needs to change.

SB155 expands Instant Ticket Lottery Machines (ITLM) to Maryland's western shore Fraternal organizations and directs 10% of gross proceeds to fund Maryland's veterans homelessness programs. The passage of SB155 would provide a consistent and reliable source of revenue to the homelessness programs that is outside of federal funding delays and state politics. By State estimates there are 250 western shore Fraternal organizations in the state that could raise between \$1.07 and \$2 million annually for veteran homelessness programs. In contrast the eastern shore fraternal ITLMs provide roughly \$78,000 annually to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (MVTTF)¹.

Specifically, SB155 provides eligible Western shore fraternal organizations with up to five (5) ITLM machines, as determined by the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Agency. Eligible Fraternal organizations must be non-profits that are legitimate state or nationally recognized groups, operating under lodge systems within a Maryland jurisdiction for at least 5 years. This bill also includes Sororal organizations, and expressly excludes high school or college fraternities and sororities. These fraternal organizations are membership-based and not open to the public. There is no evidence that these organizations take business away from the casinos.

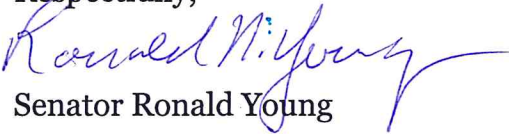
SB155 specifies that the priority for homelessness programs goes to homeless women veterans, single-parent veteran families, and veterans who are victims of domestic abuse. The remaining funds are split between the fraternal organizations, the Lottery and Gaming Agency (to pay for the lease or purchase of the machines), and the general fund.

SB155 is a collaboration between Maryland charity organizations, for-profit businesses, state agencies, and community homeless organizations to ensure that our homeless veterans remain a priority. The diverse support of this bill reflects the commitment in our communities to our veterans, and their families.

I offer an amendment to add Senators Benson, Ellis, and Klausmeier as co-sponsors of the bill.

I ask that you vote favorably on **SB155** to ensure Maryland's homelessness programs can adequately meet the needs of the women and men that served our country.

Respectfully,


Senator Ronald Young

Resources

1. MacDonagh, Heather. January 2020. Department of Legislative Services. "SB59 Fiscal and Policy Note, First Reader". (Dec 29, 2021)
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/fnotes/bil_0009/sb0059.pdf
2. Maryland Military Coalition. January 9, 2020. "Letter of Support for SB59".
3. US Department of Housing and Urban Affairs. January 2021. "The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress" (Dec 29, 2021)
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>
4. US Department of Housing and Urban Affairs. October 2018. "The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress" (Jan 3, 2022)
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2017-AHAR-Part-2.pdf>
5. US Department of Housing and Urban Affairs. September 2020. "The 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress" (Jan 3, 2022)
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2018-AHAR-Part-2.pdf>
6. Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. "Consolidation and Creation of the Maryland Homelessness Solutions Program." Briefing slides.
7. Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness. "2018 Annual Report on Homelessness" for the Governor and Maryland General Assembly. (Jan 4, 2022)
<https://dhcd.maryland.gov/HomelessServices/Documents/2018AnnualReport.pdf>