

Riverboat SB 297 testimony 2022.pdf

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Position: FAV



February 2, 2022

Senator Guy J. Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

As the Riverboat on the Potomac, we are writing to voice our support for **SB 297 – Sports Wagering Facilities – Locations**. The establishment of sports betting has been an exceptional opportunity for Maryland to provide equity to organizations that have been historically excluded from participation in multimillion- or even billion-dollar markets. Diversity is a source of pride for the Riverboat team. We have been told we are the first all minority-owned sports wagering licensee in the country, which is an incredible achievement for our team, but more importantly for the State of Maryland. But our team’s search for minority inclusion didn’t end with ownership; we sought the best and brightest in interior design, general contracting and security systems and electrical installation services, and found Lifted Interior, Liberty, and M-TEC, respectively. All three of these companies are African American woman-owned business, two which are also Maryland-based MBEs. I believe it is safe to state here and now that PointsBet, our gaming sports-betting operator, and our Riverboat team could not be happier with the talent we’ve assembled to turn our ownership dream into a reality.

Participating in the sports wagering industry in Maryland is an incredible opportunity for our team, which include MBE equity partner Delmock Entertainment. However, given our unique location across the Potomac River near Colonial Beach, Virginia, the current 1.5mile exclusionary radius mostly covers only water. It is our belief that SB 297 and the proposed 10mile radius would strengthen the value of this license for our team and will allow us to build a strong base in Southern Maryland as we prepare to begin operations. For these reasons, our position on Senate Bill 297 is **FAVORABLE**.

Thank you,
The Riverboat Team

SB297_SenYoung_FWA.PDF

Uploaded by: Ronald Young

Position: FWA

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

February 2, 2022
SB297 - SUPPORT
Sports Wagering Facility

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

SB297 was always intended as a Frederick County only bill. The sponsor amendment provided to the Committee, and attached to this testimony, removes the other counties currently listed in the bill.

SB297 expands the prohibited radius for Class B1 and B-2 sports wagering facilities from 1.5 miles to 10 miles. This request is similar to the expanded 15 mile radius for Class A facilities in Allegany, Cecil and Worcester counties.

We believe an expanded radius is best for Frederick County given the population density of Frederick county, its rural nature, and the desire to preserve its historic and natural features.

The bill has the support of the Frederick County Delegation.

I ask that you **vote favorably on SB297 as amended** to allow Frederick County a larger prohibition radius for Sports Wagering facilities in our county.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald N. Young".

Senator Ronald Young



SB0297/293826/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

28 JAN 22
14:42:12

BY: Senator Young
(To be offered in the Budget and Taxation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 297
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, before “**Gaming**” insert “**Frederick County** -”; in the same line, strike “- **Locations**”; and in line 5, strike “certain counties” and substitute “**Frederick County**”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, strike beginning with “**CALVERT**” in line 23 down through the first comma in line 24; and in line 24, strike “, **OR WASHINGTON COUNTY**”.