

ERIC LUEDTKE
Legislative District 14
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Ways and Means Committee
Chair, Revenues Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 350
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3110 · 410-841-3110
800-492-7122 Ext. 3110
Fax 301-858-3053 · 410-841-3053
Eric.Luedtke@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY

House Bill 942 - Horse Racing - Satellite Simulcast Betting Facilities and Permit Holders -
Alterations

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

House Bill 942 intends to update Maryland's antique off-track betting (OTB) laws to better reflect the state of the industry today. Our state now has a thriving network of OTB facilities. These can be found in rural small businesses, racetracks such as Pimlico, and some of Maryland's most popular casinos. The OTB statute, however, has become difficult for businesses to navigate. One example of this is that an OTB employee is prohibited from taking both a sports bet and a parimutuel bet. With the legalization of sports betting in Maryland, this has become problematic for how OTB locations operate.

To address this issue and others with the statute, House Bill 942 updates zoning and personnel requirements to better align with current practices, eliminates outdated references to certain required amenities, and provides additional operating flexibility to the State's seven OTB facilities. This legislation aims to bolster our state's OTB industry by providing them with the flexibility that sites need.

Maryland's OTB network is a vital component of Maryland's thriving racing program which creates jobs, supports those who raise horses, and generates revenue. As a representative from a community with significant horse-related agriculture, I have seen first-hand the impact of this industry. And the key to future success for Maryland's OTBs depends upon their ability to adapt and keep up with an ever changing landscape. House Bill 942 provides an overdue update to the statute to allow for that adaptation to take place. For these reasons, I thank the Committee for your consideration and ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric Luedtke".

Delegate Eric Luedtke