



February 15, 2023

Senate Bill 267

**Internet Gaming - Authorization and Implementation
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

Letter of Information

This legislation, which is subject to voter referendum, authorizes the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission (SLGCC) to license video lottery operators to conduct and operate Internet gaming in the State.

Like the other five Maryland counties with state-licensed casinos, Anne Arundel County receives a portion of revenues derived from table gaming and video lottery terminals in the form of local impact grants. Anne Arundel County receives 5% of table gaming revenues associated with Live! Casino, and a portion of video lottery terminal (VLT) revenues associated with the three casinos in the central Maryland area. A Local Development Council guides spending of the revenue from VLTs, which is spent on programs and services located in a 3-mile radius surrounding the casino. Permitted uses include infrastructure improvements, facilities, public safety, sanitation, economic and community development, and other public services and improvements.

Anne Arundel County has had a meaningful and successful partnership with Live! Casino since it opened in 2012. In addition to the generation of revenue that provides critical funding for fire and public safety services, recreation and parks, education and libraries, transportation systems, and other community services and projects, Live! employs over 2,200 individuals. Live! has also invested over \$250 million in a hotel and event center, which opened in 2018. During the pandemic, Live! partnered with the Anne Arundel County Health Department to operate a COVID vaccination clinic in the casino's convention space.

We anticipate that, once implemented, Internet gaming will impact revenues associated with in-person table gaming and VLTs. Under Internet gaming, participants will have the convenient option of gaming from their phones. For this reason, Anne Arundel County requests protection of the existing revenue streams on which local governments have relied for several years, and which support important services and infrastructure for our communities.