



Dear Honorable Senators,

SB623 – Unfavorable Report

I am Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney testifying on behalf of the residents and Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland to express our opposition to Senate Bill 623: Gaming-Electronic Instant Bingo Machines-Maximum Number of Machines.

Currently, the three commercial “bingo slots parlors” in Chesapeake Beach are operating with 450 machines with one of these businesses also being awarded a brick and mortar Sports Gambling license.

The impacts of Gambling activities pose a significant burden on the Town citizens prompting a **2020 ballot question** where Town voters responded overwhelmingly, with close to **80% voting against expanded gambling activities in Town**. In response, the Town Council adopted Ordinance #0-21-1 prohibiting expanded gambling.

To be clear, these three establishments in town are not “mom and pop shops” struggling to stay afloat. They are very successful multi-level slots parlors.

I appreciate any and, all efforts by your body to support the “will of the citizens” and prevent the further expansion of electronic bingo machines in the Town of Chesapeake Beach.

For these reasons we oppose SB623 and encourage you to give it an Unfavorable Report.

Sincerely,


Patrick J. Mahoney

Mayor, Chesapeake Beach