

Date: April 5, 2023

Bill number: SB0711

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Bill title: **Child Support–Sports Wagering and Fantasy Competition Intercept**

DHS Position: **FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide written support for Senate Bill 711 (SB 711).

This bill allows for the intercept of sports wagering and fantasy competition winnings of obligors who are in arrears in the payment of child support, by amending Family Law Article § 10-113.1, Certification to State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency. The interception of sports wagering and fantasy competition winnings would increase the collection of overdue child support payments from obligors to benefit Maryland's children. Presently there are four states that intercept sports wagering winnings for the purpose of child support collection: Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, and Maine.

The Maryland General Assembly passed lottery intercept legislation during the 1987 Legislative Session with an effective date of July 1, 1988. Casino winnings intercept passed during the 2014 legislative session with an effective date of October 1, 2014 and June 1, 2015. Since October 1, 2014, the Maryland Child Support Administration has intercepted over \$5.6 million from obligors' casino and lottery winnings. Expanding Family Law § 10-113.1 to also include sports wagering and fantasy competition winnings will result in further increased child support collections to satisfy outstanding child support arrears for Maryland's children. With the 2021 passage of House Bill 940, the regulation of fantasy gaming competitions and implementation of sports wagering brought companies like FanDuel and DraftKings to Maryland. Creating an intercept for online gaming activities will ensure that similar types of gambling are treated in kind for child support collection purposes.

For these reasons, the Department strongly urges a favorable report by the Committee for SB 711.

