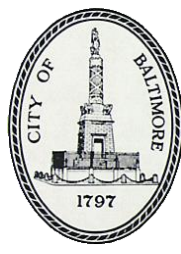


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Position: FWA



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 529

February 16, 2023

TO: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 259 - Gaming - Video Lottery Terminals - Local Impact Grants - Baltimore City

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 529 **with amendments**.

HB 529 would alter the distribution of funds from local impact grants to Baltimore City. The BCA supports the spirit of the bill. However, to maintain our current fiscal allocation we request the below amendment:

On page 2, line 15, B: Change the language from "For fiscal years 2024 through 2032, 85% in a manner that is consistent with the Park Heights Master Plan" to "For fiscal years 2024 through 2032, **at least** 85% in a manner that is consistent with the Park Heights Master Plan."

Under the current law, the City of Baltimore already allocates more than the 75%. We are able to do that legally because of the "at least" being included in law. Therefore, we would like to maintain the ability to fund over the 75%; this wording would enable that change.

For the above reasons, the BCA requests a **favorable with amendments** report on HB 529.