



March 30, 2023

Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Letter of Information – Senate Bill 621 - Gaming - Sports Wagering - Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering Content

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (“MLGCA” or “Agency”) submits this letter of information to the Ways and Means Committee (“Committee”) as background information regarding Senate Bill 621 – Gaming - Sports Wagering - Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering Content.

As SB621 is currently amended, it would require the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission (“MLGCC” or “Commission”) by December 31, 2023, to license independent evaluators that would evaluate the sports wagering content provided to sports wagering licensees and sports wagering operators by sports wagering experts, sports wagering influencers, and content partners. The bill also would require MLGCC to establish standards of practice governing sports wagering content and by April 1, 2024, authorize sports wagering licensees and sports wagering operators that advertise in the State to contract with an independent evaluator to evaluate and rate the sports wagering licensee’s sports wagering content experts, influencers and partners.

MLGCA appreciates the collaboration with the bill sponsor on amendments for this proposed legislation as originally drafted. The one technical amendment we would still ask for is under 9-1E-17(C): replace “shall establish standards of practice governing sports wagering content” with “may promulgate regulations for the licensure of independent evaluators of sports wagering content”. MLGCC is not sure how it would “establish standards of practice governing sports wagering content” and there could be first amendment issues with proceeding with that particular requirement.

Finally, MLGCA believes an “independent evaluator of sports wagering content” or an entity conducting an “independent evaluation of sports wagering content” that is licensed by MLGCC should not be compensated by sports wagering licensees and/or operators. There seems to be conflicting language concerning this in 9-1E-17(B)(2)(VI) and 9-1E-17(C).

Thank you for your consideration of this information. If you should have any questions or need more information about this subject, please do not hesitate to contact Sean Ford, MLGCA’s Director of Legislation and Policy Development, at 410-230-8988 or sean.ford@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

John A. Martin
Director

cc: All Committee Members
Senators Zucker and Hettleman