



EMPLOY PRINCE GEORGE'S
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House Bill 1288

Committee: Ways and Means

Date: March 14, 2023

Position: Favorable

This testimony is offered on behalf of Employ Prince George's, the principal workforce development entity for Prince George's County that provides nationally recognized community and workforce development programming. At Employ Prince George's, we deliver a demand-driven workforce system that generates economic mobility for workers, delivers qualified workers to businesses, and drives economic success for every Marylander.

As the administrative and fiscal agent of the Prince George's County Workforce Development Board, Employ Prince George's is responsible for operating the Prince George's County Public Workforce System, which serves over 25,000 job seekers and businesses annually. Employ Prince George's offers a diverse portfolio of workforce development programs that have demonstrated success training and connecting returning citizens to careers and opportunities that promote economic mobility. As a result, Employ Prince George's fully supports the expansion of workforce opportunities for returning citizens.

To connect more Marylanders to sustainable careers within the lottery and gaming industry, House Bill 1288 (HB 1288) ensures that more returning citizens are eligible to obtain a video lottery employee license. Modeled after New Jersey law, HB 1288 provides socio-economic opportunity to applicants who were charged with nonviolent crimes for which applicants completed a problem-solving court program.

According to the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, more than 7,000 Marylanders are employed by the State's casinos. Moreover, revenue generated from the State's lottery and gaming industry supports education, public health, and environmental programs. By removing unnecessary barriers to licensure, HB 1288 ensures that more returning citizens have opportunities to work in the State's thriving lottery and gaming industry that benefits the public.

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HB 1288 removes barriers to licensure and provides opportunities for sustainable careers to more Marylanders. **For the aforementioned reasons, Employ Prince George's respectfully requests a favorable report from the Committee on HB 1288.**