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February 28, 2024

TO:	The Honorable Guy Guzzone Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM:	Tiffany Johnson Clark Chief, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General
RE:	Senate Bill 603 – Internet Gaming – Authorization and Implementation – Letter of Information with Amendments

The Office of Attorney General respectfully submits this letter of information for this Committee's use when deliberating Senate Bill 603 – Internet Gaming – Authorization and Implementation. Senate Bill 603 (1) authorizes the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to license video lottery operators and up to five other specified qualified applicants to conduct and operate Internet gaming in the State and (2) provides for the distribution of Internet gaming proceeds.

If the State were to authorize and implement a Statewide internet gaming industry, it is imperative to ensure that the proper supports are in place for any individuals who may experience negative effects of Internet gaming. The Office of the Attorney General urges the Committee to amend Senate Bill 603 to allow 1% of Internet gaming proceeds to go to the Algorithmic Addiction Fund (established by Senate Bill 739 of 2024), if passed by this General Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us.