

HB1252 - MAA - Gaming - VLT Study_LOI_FINAL_CO.pdf

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Position: INFO

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: *Letter of Information – House Bill 1252 – Gaming - Study on Video Lottery Terminals at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall*

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) offers the following information on House Bill 1252 for the Committee's consideration.

As amended, House Bill 1252 would require the Maryland Aviation Administration in consultation with the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission, to conduct a study on the feasibility of granting a video lottery operation license for a video lottery facility at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. It would also require the Administration, on or before October 1, 2024, to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

The MAA is best suited to lead and oversee any study pertaining to its facilities. The subject areas proposed to be studied under the bill, such as security impacts, space limitations, and infrastructure issues, would be most effectively studied by MAA personnel with the pertinent subject matter expertise. Further, only MAA personnel will be able to accurately determine factors such as the proper number of terminals and the best locations for a video lottery facility in terms of airport operations.

It should also be noted that under federal law, MAA is required to use all revenues generated at BWI Marshall for lawful airport purposes. In prior years, MAA and the airlines have raised concerns that similar bills would violate federal revenue use laws. While House Bill 1252 does not specifically state where the proceeds from video lottery terminals will be allocated or how revenues will be used, to ensure that the report is prepared accurately and reflects the federal revenue use laws, we believe the feasibility study will answer these questions.

The Maryland Aviation Administration respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during its deliberations of House Bill 1252.

Respectfully submitted,

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