

CROSSOVER BILL HB1319_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#/1319 – FAVORABLE

Internet Gaming - Authorization and Implementation

TO: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of CROSSOVER BILL HB#1319, Internet Gaming - Authorization and Implementation

This bill looks at internet gambling as a possible source for the additional revenue that is acknowledged as a deficit for Maryland. The bill includes social equity and consumer protection provisions as well as a ban on using credit cards to bet. It requires that the citizens of Maryland vote in a referendum on the issue, thus placing the burden on proponents and opponents to make the case to the citizenry for their positions on the issue.

Because this bill doesn't make a change without that vote by the citizens it can and should be passed so the issue can be put to the voters. There are both pro and con arguments to be made, but the intent of the bill is to increase Maryland's revenues to permit funding for critical needs like the Blueprint for Education.

The General Assembly must defer to the will of the voters and pass this bill to put the question to the voters. Whether a representative is for or against the concept it is the decision of the voters that will have the final say so when this bill is passed into law.

More revenue must be found for our state's needs! **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass CROSSOVER BILL HB1319.**