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Unfavorable



House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committee
House Bill 1087 (Queen) Institutions of Higher Education – Online Gambling - Prohibition



Matt Power, President

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On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the nearly 55,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of opposition to [House Bill 1087 \(Queen\) Institutions of Higher Education – Online Gambling - Prohibition](#). This bill would require each institution of higher education to establish a geofence around the perimeter that prevents access to online gambling within the campus property and to publish a written policy on the prohibition of online gambling.



MICUA institutions take internet gambling very seriously. Many institutions provide literature and support on various types of addictions as well as educate students about drug and gambling addictions. However, there are several concerns and technological incapacities that make HB 1087 wholly impossible to implement.



MICUA institutions cannot block students from accessing known gambling sites on cellular networks. Institutions cannot stop students from accessing those sites if they turn off the wireless connection on the students' phones. The majority of gambling sites are mobile device user-friendly. Thus, there is an even greater likelihood that institutions would not be able to prevent a student, employee, or visitor to the campus from accessing an online gambling site. Requiring higher education institutions to block these sites from campuses would be extremely burdensome, costly, and unreliable. Our members are also concerned about the potential liability from being unable to block these sites with 100% accuracy.



Moreover, several institutions have an acceptable (network) use policy that informs users of the non-permissible activities on their network, such as online harassment, illegal access to another organization's network resources, and unlawful acts; however, a specific list of prohibited legal activities does not exist and could spur contentious debate given other controversial, yet legal sites that are not banned.



If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Irnande Altema, Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, ialtema@micua.org.



For these reasons, we respectfully request an unfavorable committee report of HB 1087.

