

ARTHUR ELLIS, CPA  
*Legislative District 28*  
Charles County

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

*Senate Chair*

Joint Committee on the  
Management of Public Funds

Chair, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert  
Counties' Senate Delegation



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Sponsor Written Testimony: Favorable

Senate Bill 725: Charles County – Gaming – Video Lottery Operation License and Video  
Lottery Terminals

February 19, 2025

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation  
Committee:

I, Senator Ellis, am sponsoring and testifying in support of Senate Bill 725 entitled, “Charles County – Gaming – Video Lottery Operation License and Video Lottery Terminals.” Senate Bill 725 would expand the number of licenses and terminals that may be awarded for video lottery facilities. Expanding these licenses would improve economic opportunities in both Charles County and Maryland as a whole, in addition to improving options for entertainment in Southern Maryland.

The bill would also expand the number of licenses that can be granted from six to seven licenses. Established in November 2008, the Video Lottery Facility Location Commission will allow for a competitive bidding process to award these licenses.<sup>1</sup> In Anne Arundel County, video lottery terminals at the Maryland Live! Casino generates 4.51% of total revenues in Anne Arundel County.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, Maryland’s Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) fund uses a percentage of

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<sup>1</sup> *Video Lottery Facility Location Commission*, Maryland Manual On-line,  
<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/26excom/defunct/html/35video.html> (last visited Feb. 18, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> *Video Lottery Facility Local Development Council*, Anne Arundel County Maryland,  
<https://www.aacounty.org/video-lottery-facility-local-development-council> (see “About Us”) (last visited Feb. 18, 2025).

proceeds from terminals to financially assist small, minority, and women-owned businesses in areas surrounding the terminals.<sup>3</sup> By expanding a video lottery license and terminals to Charles County, we can ensure that these benefits expand to and are targeted to small, minority, and women-owned businesses in the area of Southern Maryland and bordering Virginia on the Potomac River. Maryland can also generate increased revenue for the entire state of Maryland from tourists and residents of Virginia who may come to the Charles County, MD location, since Charles County partially borders Virginia.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 725 to expand video lottery licenses and terminals in Southern Maryland to improve economic outcomes and equity and entertainment for businesses and residents in Maryland.

Sincerely,



Arthur Ellis

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<sup>3</sup> *Small, Minority and Women-Owned Business Account - Video Lottery Terminal Fund (VLT)*, Maryland Department of Commerce, <https://commerce.maryland.gov/fund/programs-for-businesses/vlt> (last visited Feb. 18, 2025).