



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Mark Belton
County Administrator

February 13, 2025

Re: Support for House Bill 841 / Senate Bill 730 – Gaming - Charles County Gaming Permit Review Board - Repeal

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Charles County Board of County Commissioners, I write to express our strong support for passage of House Bill 841/ Senate Bill 730, which proposes to replace the Charles County Gaming Permit Review Board (“GPRB”), comprised of resident members, with an administrative review of gaming permit applications by the County Attorney, followed by approval or denial by the Charles County Board of County Commissioners.

Currently, the GPRB consists of 7 resident members appointed by the County Commissioners. It is charged with reviewing applications for permits for gaming events with prizes valued greater than \$1,000 that use a “gaming device” to conduct the event (i.e., paddle wheel, wheel of fortune, and chance book). For several years, the only gaming permits being issued by the County are those for gaming activities with prizes valued under \$1,000, therefore the GPRB has not convened. Because of the proliferation of other gaming options in the area (i.e. casinos and sports betting), it is not anticipated that the local gaming activities of qualifying organizations will increase, thereby leaving the volunteer members of the GPRB without a meaningful objective.

For the reasons described herein, we are seeking approval of HB 841/SB 730 to remove the requirement for applications for a gaming permit to be made to the GPRB, and instead manage the process administratively with application review by the Office of the County Attorney. Once reviewed, the applications will continue to be forwarded to the County Commissioners for final approval as is required by the current law.

We urge a favorable report on HB 841/SB 730. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Reuben B. Collins, II, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President
County Commissioners of Charles County

cc: Charles County Delegation