



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 25, 2025

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

RE: Senate Bill (SB) 706 - Gaming – Problem Gambling – Prevalence Study and Fund Revenue – Letter of information

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill 706 - Gaming – Problem Gambling – Prevalence Study and Fund Revenue. SB 706 proposes expanding the scope of the prevalence study on problem gambling and modifying the allocation of revenues from fantasy competition and sports wagering proceeds. While the bill seeks to enhance the understanding of problem gambling behaviors and increase funding for treatment and prevention, there is also the additional requirement to expand the scope of the current study.

Currently, the Department, in collaboration with the Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, conducts research to assess the prevalence and impact of problem gambling within the state. The expansion of the study outlined in SB 706 would require additional resources and administrative coordination. Given that the state already has mechanisms in place to evaluate problem gambling trends, the Department recommends that the proposed expansion of the prevalence study be reconsidered or removed to ensure that resources remain efficiently allocated to ongoing efforts.

The Department remains committed to promoting responsible gaming and addressing problem gambling through research, prevention, and treatment programs. However, to preserve the integrity of these initiatives, the proposed study expansion and fund reallocation should be carefully considered.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov or 443-826-1851.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LH Scott', written in a cursive style.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary