

2025Testimony-BCoreyBradley.pdf

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Position: FAV

March 3, 2025

Senate Bill 541

Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe

I am here today to represent the nearly 20K Elks that make up the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks Association.

Elks across the State of Maryland have helped shaped communities by donating hours helping those less fortunate, volunteering at veteran's hospitals, supporting first responders and mentoring our youth to be their best. This year I am pleased to say at the end of 2024, we have given back \$10.4 million dollars to our communities. Everyone always says we should strive to do better and I can stand before this committee and say as Elks we are committed to our communities and that means doing everything in our power to make our communities better.

Senate Bill 541 will allow Elks Lodges and other fraternal organizations on the Western shore to continue to provide to their community through Instant Ticket Lottery Machines (ITLM) located in our lodges and facilities. These machines will also give the state funds to support Educational programs that are important to organizations like the Elks.

Supporting Senate Bill 541 will allow Lodges on the Western Shore of Maryland to continue the work they are already doing. It will only increase the charity that is currently being spread throughout communities in Maryland. Charity which comes in the form of helping a child with a disability gain access to a much needed ramp, providing iPads to Green Street Veterans Hospital or simply saying thank you to our first responders over a home cooked meal. I and the 20K Elks I represent would appreciate your support and a favorable vote.

Elks Recap 03032025.pdf

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The Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Elks Association Supports:

SB541 / 2025

State Lottery – Instant Ticket Lottery Machines for Fraternal Organizations

What is the the Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Elks Association:

The Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Elks Association is a non-profit organization of volunteers from 37 Elks Lodges dedicated to serving our communities and improving the quality of life.

Who are the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (B.P.O.E.)?

A fraternal order that started over 150 years ago and currently has hundreds of thousands of members in nearly 2000 Lodges across the United States. The Lodges support their communities through inspiring youth, supporting veterans and scholarships.

What is the Purpose of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks?

Our fraternal order, founded to promote the practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship.

What do the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks do?

The orders donates more than \$381-million dollars every year for benevolent, educational and patriotic community-minded programs in such fields as:

- Special needs children
- Elks National Foundation scholarships
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
- Youth athletic programs (such as Hoop shoot and Soccer shoot)
- Veterans programs (such as Army of Hope and Wounded Warriors)
- Physical and occupational therapy programs
- Patriotic programs
- State major projects (such as Elks Camp Barrett located in 1001 Chesterfield Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401)
- Blood drives and drug awareness programs
- Senior Citizens programs





The Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Elks Association

Charity Report Summary: Survey of Volunteer, Charitable and Community Service Programs

Involvement (Volunteers and Hours)

Elks who volunteered	121,074
Non-Elks who volunteered	21,388
Total Number of Workers	142,462
Elk hours donated	232,984
Non-Elk/Helper hours donated	24,384
Total Hours Volunteered	254,368
Valued at: \$7,708,172	

Dedication (Miles Traveled)

Elks miles traveled	540,512
Non-Elk miles traveled	147,222
Total Miles Traveled	687,734
Valued at: \$405,673	

Contributions (Cash and Non-Cash Contributions)

Cash contributions	\$1,162,746
Non-cash contributions	\$1,107,051
Valued at: \$2,267,797	

Total Contributions:

\$10,446,732





The Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Elks Association

Lodges by District

North Central

Annapolis, Lodge #622
Bowie, Lodge #2309
Broadneck, Lodge #2608
Essex, Lodge #1866
Glen Burnie, Lodge #2266
Laurel, Lodge #2283
Severna Park, Lodge #2482
Towson, Lodge #469

Northeast District

Abingdon, Lodge #2354
Chestertown, Lodge #2474
Dover, Lodge #1903
Havre de Grace, Lodge #1564
Milford, Lodge #2401
Newark, Lodge #2281
Wilmington, Lodge #307

Southeast District

Cambridge, Lodge #1272
Cape Henlopen, Lodge #2540
Crisfield, Lodge #1622
Easton, Lodge #1622
Ken Island, Lodge #2576
Ocean City, Lodge #2645
Pokomoke City, Lodge #1624
Salisbury, Lodge #817
Seaford, Lodge #2458
Shelbyville Lodge #2173

Southwest District

Calvert, Lodge #2620
Camp Springs, Lodge 2332
Deale, Lodge #2528
Prince George's County, Lodge #1778
St. Mary's County, Lodge 2092
Waldorf, Lodge #2421
Washington-Rockville, Lodge #15

West District

Calvert, Lodge #2620
Frostburg, Lodge #470
Hagerstown, Lodge #378
Oakland, Lodge #2481
Westminster, Lodge #2277



Sb541-25-DRAFTAMEND.pdf

Uploaded by: Sushant Sidh

Position: FWA

Amendments for SB 541

25 (6) The Agency shall ensure that the element of chance in the conduct of
26 the gaming through the instant ticket lottery machines established under this subsection
27 is ~~consistent with the holding in the case of Chesapeake Amusements Inc. v. Riddle, 363~~
28 ~~Md. 16 (2001), in that the element of chance must be~~ MAINTAINED wholly within the ~~pre-printed~~
PREDETERMINED instant
29 lottery ticket, and that player enhancements in an instant ticket lottery machine may not
30 affect the element of chance being wholly ~~within the pre-printed~~ ESTABLISHED BY THE PREDETERMINATION
OF AN instant lottery ticket.

2025 Casino Testimony on ITLMs (62506827.1) (002).

Uploaded by: Marta Harting

Position: UNF



To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: March 5, 2025

Re: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 541 (State Lottery – Instant Ticket Lottery Machines – Veterans’ and Fraternal Organizations)

Maryland’s six casinos oppose SB 541, which would increase the availability of "slot-like" machines in Maryland.

Maryland's casinos drive significant State revenues and other benefits to the State’s economy.

- Maryland has the 19th largest population in the country but generates the 4th highest gaming tax revenues.
- Maryland's six commercial casinos support 15,000+ direct jobs, generate \$3.0 billion in economic impact; and create \$962.2 million in tax impacts.¹
- Maryland's 41% Blended Tax Rate is the second highest tax rate in the country.
- Maryland has one of the highest gaming tax revenues as a percentage of corporate income tax collected in the country, at 52%. In other words, the 6 casinos in Maryland pay over half as much tax annually as **the thousands of other corporations doing business in the state each year.** (\$848 million Gaming Tax v \$1.6 billion corporate income tax.²)
- Maryland casinos spent over \$3 billion in initial construction.
- **Maryland casinos have provided \$5.2 billion to the Maryland Education Trust Fund and over \$6.5 billion in overall taxes since the program began.**

Increasing the availability of slot-like machines will negatively impact State gaming revenues to fund public K-12 education and other important programs.

- Games like instant ticket lottery machines (ITLM), electronic tip jars, "skill-based" games, and instant bingo machines generally mirror slot machine play and therefore compete with slot machine play and casinos generally.
- Maryland has greatly benefitted from its casino gaming program. Since the inception of the program, the Education Trust Fund has received over \$6 billion in casino revenues, \$601 million in FY24 alone.
- In FY2024, casino revenue also contributed:
 - \$105m in local aid
 - \$94m to Maryland's horse racing industry
 - \$20m to the Maryland's Small, Minority and Women-owned Business Fund
 - \$4.5m to the Responsible Gaming Fund

¹ Source: American Gaming Association

² Source: January, 2023 DLS Fiscal Briefing

- The partnership between Maryland and its VLT licensees is one of the most successful partnerships to fund public education in the nation. It is critical that the Maryland General Assembly protect the funding streams so important to State programs.
- By increasing the availability of slot machine-like machines that compete with slot machines, these bills are contrary to the State's interest in maximizing casino tax revenue to fund public education and the other programs funded by casino taxes.

These bills undercut responsible gaming initiatives and lack essential regulatory oversight to protect the public.

- Maryland's Voluntary Exclusion Program (VEP) is a core component of the State's responsible gaming efforts, and helps to ensure that at-risk people are protected.
- The state created the VEP in 2011 to assist people who have a gambling problem and choose to exclude themselves from Maryland casinos, lottery, and/or certain bingo halls in Anne Arundel and Calvert Counties.
- The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency staffs each casino in Maryland at all times that the casino floor is open to enroll people into the VEP.
- Maryland's casinos are responsible for ensuring that individuals who are on the VEP list do not have access to gaming on their properties.
- As a result of these requirements and other regulation by the MLGCA, Maryland's casinos are arguably the most regulated businesses in Maryland.
- The proposed bills do not include responsible gaming protections for slot-like games.
- Without proven responsible gaming measures in place, excluded patrons can simply avoid Maryland's casinos and frequent understaffed bingo halls, fraternal organizations, and bars and restaurants who might have access to these machines.
- The operators of these slots-like machines are also not subject to regulatory oversight and control to protect the public that is exercised by the MLGCA over casinos.

As the State's partners in funding the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and in ensuring that effective responsible gaming measures are in place, we respectfully request the Committee to give an unfavorable report to SB541.