



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

February 13 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building, Room 131  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: House Bill 700: 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 House Bill 700: Gaming – Problem Gambling – Prevalence Study and Fund Revenue.

The Department respectfully submits this letter of information regarding House Bill (HB) 700, which 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 are concerns regarding the expansion of the study and the redirection of a significant portion of proceeds away from problem gambling support services.

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 HB 700 would require additional resources and administrative coordination, potentially straining existing efforts. 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 reconsidered.

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](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov) or 443-826-1851.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Scott", is positioned above the typed name.

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