



February 6, 2025

House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 539 – State Lottery – Ticket Purchase and Delivery by Third-Party
Entity – Authorization

Dear Chair Atterbeary:

This letter is in opposition to *House Bill 539 – State Lottery – Ticket Purchase and Delivery by Third-Party Entity – Authorization*. This bill authorizes the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to allow licensed agents to enter into an agreement with third-party entities to allow those entities to purchase and deliver State lottery tickets on behalf of individuals in the State.

A person must be at least 18 years old to play the Lottery, which is verified by the retailer at the time of purchase and there are penalties for a retailer who sells to a minor. This bill takes away the ability of the retailer to confirm the age of the purchaser and puts the onus on a third party with no such penalties for violation. Research from the alcohol industry makes it clear that third-party delivery services are not checking IDs before delivering an age-restricted product. Last year, the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America released survey results stating that on average, people who purchase alcohol fail to get their IDs checked by delivery personnel 25% of the time.ⁱ

This bill will increase the risk of youth access to a product that is addictive, and age restricted. We urge an unfavorable report. If you would like more information, please contact Mary Drexler at mdrexler@som.umaryland.edu.

Sincerely,

Mary Drexler, MSW

ⁱ <https://www.bevindustry.com/articles/96338-wswa-alcohol-shipping-study-shows-25-of-adults-report-no-id-checks>