

Ways and Means Committee

*Subcommittees*

Education

Election Law



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**SPONSOR TESTIMONY**

**HB 1134 - Sports Wagering – Sports Wagering Facility Licensees – Provision of Services**

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 131  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and Esteemed Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

HB 1134 is a limited bill clarifying how small sports betting facilities in Maryland may advertise their amenities and utilize associated rewards programs.

"Class A" sports wagering facilities often partner with smaller "Class B" facilities to provide gambling amenities outside of the casinos and race tracks typically associated with Class A sports wagering. These Class A facilities have technical support for robust rewards programs and widely-recognizable branding due to the scale and advertising power of their businesses. However, even when Class B facilities partner with Class A facilities to offer top-notch sports betting and gaming amenities, those Class B facilities cannot advertise their affiliated rewards programs, nor can they take advantage of the partnering Class A facilities' technical resources to support their rewards programs.

The current state of play creates a fairness issue for these small businesses. Right now, Class B licensees are at a competitive disadvantage against the larger facilities in the state. As the law stands now, Class B facilities have difficulty attracting Class A business partners that can assist with the implementation of gambling amenities. Even worse, they also lose business to large facilities in neighboring states that are sometimes closer to their customers than the large facilities within our state, and ultimately Maryland loses out on needed revenue when its citizens' gambling activities occur elsewhere. This arrangement is discouraging to any business owner holding a Class B license, and with this bill we have a modest opportunity to assist these Maryland businesses and encourage residents who gamble to do so in our state.

To encourage and support our Maryland-based businesses, I urge a favorable report on HB 1134.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kris Fair".

Delegate Kris Fair  
District 3, Frederick County