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Charles County

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees

Local Revenues

Chair, Racing and Gaming

Chair, Southern Maryland
House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB0618
State Lottery - Internet Sales of Subscription Plans - Authorization

Good afternoon, Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Edith Patterson, sponsor of HB0618 – State Lottery – Internet Sales of Subscription Plans – Authorization. This legislation authorizes the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to establish a system or program that allows consumers to purchase a State Lottery subscription plan through the Internet using personal or mobile devices. This is a modernization bill for the current antiquated system of selling subscriptions.

Subscriptions are currently offered for Cash4Life, Multi-Match, Mega Millions, and Powerball through a mail-only program. Requiring players to fill out the paperwork online, then print it out and mail in a check or money order to lottery headquarters. The process to obtain a subscription and begin playing takes 1-2 weeks depending on when the application is received and processed. I cannot begin to think of any successful modern business operating this way.

This bill begins to address changes in consumer behavior. Consumers expect convenience, flexibility, and accessibility in their interactions with businesses and services, including government, departments, and agencies. The widespread adoption of mobile technology and online payment systems has fueled this shift. Unfortunately, the State Lottery’s current subscription process has not kept pace with these changes.

The current outdated and cumbersome process discourages participation, especially among younger, tech-savvy audiences who expect seamless digital options. As a result, we are missing an opportunity to attract new players and grow revenue for important state programs funded by lottery proceeds.

An online system would enhance consumer satisfaction, improve operational efficiency for the State Lottery, and potentially increase subscription participation rates, leading to higher revenue for Maryland. This legislation will not impact lottery sales at physical locations, nor does it change the existing prohibition on Lottery ticket sales through the Internet.

Maryland is not alone in recognizing the need for modernization. Many other states have already implemented similar programs. These states have reported positive outcomes, including increased participation and revenue growth while providing security measures to ensure consumer protection

and compliance with gaming regulations. By passing HB0618, Maryland can modernize its lottery system, meet the expectations of today's consumers, and strengthen the State Lottery's ability to fund critical programs and initiatives that benefit all Marylanders.

I respectfully urge you to vote favorably for HB0618.

Thank you for your consideration,
Edith Patterson
Charles County