



April 2, 2025

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

Subject: Proposed Amendments to HB 465: Gaming – Problem Gambling and College Athlete Protections

Amendment Title: Strengthening Data Access, Research Funding, and University Involvement in Gambling Policy

Dear Delegate Atterbeary,

I am writing to express Morgan State University's support for HB 465 and to introduce the attached amendments that would enhance the bill's impact on responsible gaming research, data access, and policy development. These amendments ensure Maryland adopts a research-driven approach to understanding and mitigating the effects of sports wagering, particularly among college students and vulnerable populations.

The proposed amendments focus on four key areas:

- **Data Access and Standardization** – Sports wagering operators must provide anonymized gambling data at regular intervals (daily, weekly, monthly, and annually) to support research on betting behaviors, self-exclusion trends, and problem gambling indicators. The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission, in consultation with Morgan State's Center for Data Analytics and Sports Gaming Research (DASGR), will establish data formatting guidelines to ensure usability.
- **Dedicated Research Funding** – \$2 million annually from state gaming revenues will support DASGR's research, including hiring faculty, building secure data infrastructure, and producing reports on gambling trends and policy impacts.
- **University Representation in Policy Discussions** – A Gambling Research & Policy Advisory Council, including representatives from Morgan State University, Bowie State University, the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and state regulators, will review gambling trends and propose policy adjustments.

- **Enforcement and Accountability** – Strict penalties for non-compliance will be enforced, including fines for sports wagering operators failing to provide required data and independent audits conducted by the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission.

These amendments will position Maryland as a leader in responsible gambling regulation, leveraging university expertise to inform policy and protect at-risk populations. We appreciate your leadership and consideration of these critical measures and welcome the opportunity to collaborate further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DK Wilson', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David K. Wilson
President
Morgan State University

Recommended Amendment to HB 465 – Strengthening Data Access for Morgan State University (DASGR) and Other Institutions

To ensure that **Morgan State University’s Center for Data Analytics and Sports Gaming Research (DASGR)** receives **structured, timely, and actionable sports wagering data**, we propose the following **modifications to HB 465**.

Current Bill Language Issues:

1. HB 465 requires that **sports wagering licensees provide transactional data and metrics to Morgan State University, Bowie State University, and the University of Maryland School of Medicine** but **does not specify data access frequency, type, or format.**
2. The bill mandates universities receive gambling data but **does not allocate funding** to support **data processing, research personnel, or infrastructure.**
3. HB 465 mandates **data access** broadly but **does not establish a formal role for universities in shaping gambling policy.**
4. HB 465 **does not establish penalties for non-compliance** with the data-sharing provisions.

Amendment Proposal 1:

- **Data Access Requirement:**
 - Sports wagering licensees must provide anonymized transactional data to authorized university research groups at the following minimum intervals:
 - Daily: High-frequency betting behaviors, self-exclusion activations, and suspicious betting patterns.
 - Weekly: Aggregate betting volumes, deposit and withdrawal trends, and geolocation summaries.
 - Monthly: Trends in user engagement, bonus utilization, and behavioral risk indicators.
 - Annually: Comprehensive datasets for longitudinal studies on gambling behaviors and policy impacts.
- **On-Demand Access Option:**
 - Sports wagering operators must also provide real-time or near-real-time access to anonymized datasets upon request by university researchers conducting state-approved gambling behavior and policy research.
- **Data Standardization Requirement:**
 - The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission will establish data formatting guidelines in consultation with DASGR Center at Morgan State University to ensure consistency and usability of research data.
- **Required Data Types:**
 - Operators and licensees must provide anonymized data, including but not limited to:
 - Individual betting behaviors and wagering patterns.
 - Deposit and withdrawal trends, including frequency and amounts.
 - Self-exclusion activations and responsible gambling interventions.
 - Promotional and bonus usage to assess marketing impacts.

- Geolocation data to study betting trends across different jurisdictions.
- Behavioral indicators of risky or problematic gambling.

Amendment Proposal 2 :

- **Annual Funding Allocation from State Gaming Revenues:**
 - **\$2 million annually** shall be allocated from **state gaming tax revenue** to support research at **DASGR at Morgan State University**.
 - Funds will be used for:
 1. **Hiring research personnel, including data scientists, policy analysts, and behavioral economists.**
 2. **Developing a secure data analytics infrastructure** for large-scale gambling research.
 3. **Conducting annual reports and policy recommendations on gambling trends, problem gambling risks, and regulatory impacts.**
- **University Research Mandate & Reporting:**
 - **Morgan State University (DASGR) shall lead a state-funded research consortium** in collaboration with **Bowie State University and the University of Maryland School of Medicine** to analyze the impact of gambling on different demographics, including **college students, minority communities, and low-income populations.**
 - The research findings will be used to **advise policymakers and gaming regulators.**

Amendment Proposal 3:

- **Creation of a Gambling Research & Policy Advisory Council**
 - A **Gambling Research & Policy Advisory Council** shall be formed with representatives from:
 - **Morgan State University (DASGR Center)**
 - **Bowie State University**
 - **University of Maryland School of Medicine, Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling**
 - **Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission**
 - **Legislators and regulators from the Ways and Means Committee**
 - The **Council shall review gambling trends and propose policy changes based on university research.**
- **Annual Legislative Briefing:**
 - Each of the Universities shall **deliver an annual report to the Maryland General Assembly** detailing:
 1. **Trends in problem gambling, including self-exclusion rates and betting behaviors.**
 2. **Effectiveness of gambling prevention programs and interventions.**
 3. **Policy recommendations based on empirical gambling research.**

Amendment Proposal 4:

- **Penalties for Non-Compliance:**
 - Sports wagering licensees failing to provide data as required shall face:
 - **A \$50,000 fine per quarter** for missing or incomplete reports.

- Additional penalties are determined by the **Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission** for repeated violations.
- **Independent Data Audits:**
 - The **Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission** shall **conduct annual audits of sports wagering licensees** to verify compliance with data-sharing and responsible gambling policies.