

**Written Testimony Submitted to the  
Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
SB 761  
Expansion of Commercial Gaming - Internet Gaming Referendum  
March 11, 2026  
UNFAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. AFT-Maryland is the state federation for a number of public K-12 education, public higher education, and public employee unions in our state, representing over 20,000 employees in the Baltimore Teachers Union, county and municipal government employees in multiple regions, the full-time faculty at eight of the state's community colleges, and four different state employees unions, including the Maryland Professional Employees Council (MPEC), the union representing state employees employed by the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA). On behalf of these workers, and especially the state employees in MPEC working as regulators for the MLGCA in our state's brick-and-mortar casinos, AFT-Maryland calls for an unfavorable report to SB 761.

The proliferation of internet gaming poses a threat to our state's brick-and-mortar casinos, which operate as a place for good paying jobs for residents of our state. AFT-Maryland members, as regulators for these brick-and-mortar locations, will not be immune to these threats; the closing of these casinos due to reduced traffic will in turn mean that fewer state regulators will be needed to be located in those casinos for enforcement of state laws and regulations.

Online gambling sites are additionally more difficult to regulate as well. Many states such as Delaware, Michigan, and West Virginia report regulatory compliance issues when expanding to internet gambling. As many of these internet gambling corporations operate outside of Maryland, and in some cases, outside of the United States, compliance to basic state laws and standards to protect Marylanders cannot be guaranteed.

For these reasons, AFT-Maryland calls for an unfavorable report to SB 761. Thank you.