



March 11, 2026

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 761 – Expansion of Commercial Gaming - Internet Gaming Referendum
– Oppose

Dear Chair Guzzone:

This letter is in opposition to *SB 761 – Expansion of Commercial Gaming - Internet Gaming Referendum*. SB 761 calls for a voter referendum on the legalization of iGaming.

Currently, only eight states have legalized iGaming (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia). iGaming is one of the most addictive activities available.ⁱ Studies have shown that continuous access to gambling makes individuals more prone to developing compulsive behaviors, as they lack natural “breaks” that physical casinos often provide.ⁱⁱ

The ease of access of iGaming is expected to lead to more health and emotional difficulties that come with gambling disorders including substance abuse, depression, and increased suicide rates. We urge an unfavorable report on SB 761. If you would like more information, please contact Heather Eshleman at heshleman@som.umaryland.edu or (667) 214-2120.

Sincerely,

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ⁱ Morgan State University, Center for Data Analytics and Sports Gaming Research, “The Socio-economic Impact of Legalizing Interactive Gaming (iGaming) and Online Betting in Maryland.” February 14, 2024.

ⁱⁱ <https://immunizenevada.org/online-gambling-and-its-psychological-impact/>