

January 28, 2026

Re: SB 112 Budget & Taxation Committee Hearing

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

The American Gaming Association (AGA) strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 112, making clear that unlicensed and unregulated so-called online “sweepstakes” casinos and sportsbooks are definitively illegal. These operators offer online casino games (e.g., slots, roulette, blackjack, etc.) and sports betting products to Maryland residents using an alleged “sweepstakes” model through any Internet-connected device without being licensed, tested, regulated, or paying any gaming taxes.

The AGA is the national trade group representing the legal U.S. gaming industry, which supports 1.8 million jobs across the country. Our membership consists of commercial and tribal casino operators, U.S.-licensed gaming suppliers and vendors, licensed sportsbook operators, testing labs, and other key stakeholders. The gaming industry is one of the most highly regulated in the country at every level of government, and our members constantly work to provide consumers with a safe gaming environment and to give back to their communities. This stands in sharp contrast to what is offered by the “sweepstakes” gambling market.

Illegal and unregulated gambling is a long-standing problem across the country, not just in Maryland. The proliferation of unlicensed and unregulated “sweepstakes” gambling is another extension of this, and gaming regulators and state Attorneys General across the country are beginning to take notice, including in Maryland. Last year, the Maryland Lottery & Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA) sent cease-and-desist letters to multiple “sweepstakes” gambling operators, making clear that they were offering illegal gambling. We commend the MLGCA for their leadership and hope that other states will follow Maryland’s example.

We appreciate the Committee focusing on this important topic and strongly support the passage of Senate Bill 112, making it explicitly clear that the laws and regulations in Maryland will not be exploited.

Sincerely,

Tres York
Vice President, Government Relations