

CRAIG J. ZUCKER
Legislative District 14
Montgomery County



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 120
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3625
800-492-7122 Ext. 3625
Craig.Zucker@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill 862- Gaming - Problem Gambling - Prevalence Study and Fund
Revenue-Funding
March 11th, 2026
1:00pm
Position: Favorable

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of SB 862- Gaming - Problem Gambling - Prevalence Study and Fund Revenue**. I would like to thank my co-sponsor, Chair Guzzone, for his support of this important initiative. This bill is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 706, passed unanimously by the Senate last year.

Senate Bill 706 would direct 1% of sports wagering revenues to the Problem Gambling Fund. This would reduce the share retained by sports wagering operators from 85% to 84% for retail licensees and from 80% to 79% for mobile licensees. The 15% distribution to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund would remain unchanged.

The bill also requires the Department of Health to conduct comprehensive prevalence studies on problem and pathological mobile gambling, with the initial study to be completed by July 1, 2031, and follow-up studies conducted at least every five years thereafter. Furthermore, the Secretary of Health would be required to submit an annual report to the Maryland General Assembly detailing how funds are being utilized by the Problem Gaming Program for treatment and prevention programs, ensuring accountability and efficacy.

Senate Bill 862 will ensure that Maryland takes proactive steps in addressing problem gambling while maintaining responsible gaming industry practices. I respectfully request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 862**. Thank you for your consideration.