



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

SB 639 – Sports Wagering - Wagers on Historical Horse Races - Authorization

DATE: February 25, 2026
COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As Frederick County Executive, I urge the committee to give **SB 639 – Sports Wagering - Wagers on Historical Horse Races - Authorization** a favorable report.

This bill will introduce historic horse racing as a sporting event for off-track betting (OTB) facilities, such as at Long Shot's in Frederick County. This proposal aims to offer economic opportunities while preserving the county's agricultural and equestrian heritage.

Frederick County has long been a hub for Maryland's horse racing industry, which is deeply intertwined with our agricultural roots. This proposal builds off that tradition to leverage economic opportunity for our growing community.

Adding historic horse racing could revitalize the commercial area around Frederick Francis Scott Key Mall by attracting more visitors, generating new jobs, and creating a sustainable business environment that benefits not only the local economy but also the entire county.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 639. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.

Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD