



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Stacy L. Rodgers, Acting Secretary

April 1, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 289 - VIDEO LOTTERY FACILITY PAYOUTS - INTERCEPTS FOR RESTITUTION PAYMENTS, CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS, AND DEBTS OWED TO THE STATE - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill (HB) 289, which passed out of the House. HB 289 was reported favorably with amendments that DHS supports and passed 132-0.

With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. Our Child Support Administration (CSA) implements the child support program which is affected by HB 289.

Maryland Family Law Article § 10-113.1 already authorizes Maryland Lottery Gaming and Control Agency and video lottery operation licensees to directly intercept winnings from a noncustodial parent for child support arrears and for those funds to be transferred to CSA. HB 289 alters Family Law Article § 10-113.1 to align the terminology with other provisions of state law, to clarify the deadline by which an appeal of intercepted winnings must be filed with CSA, and to add interception requests made under the State Finance and Procurement Article § 3-308 to the hierarchy of interception requests that video lottery operators must honor.

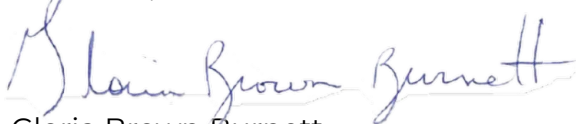
Under HB 289, video lottery operators would be authorized to intercept video lottery winnings from persons with child support-related debts reported to Maryland's Central Collections Unit (CCU). Operators would be required to transfer the intercepted winnings to CCU, which could result in earlier satisfaction of some child support-related debts. CSA first works to resolve the arrearages directly with the parent prior to reporting the child support debt to CCU.

Not every child support debt owed is reported to the CCU. The types of child support debt eligible for reporting to CCU include: recoupment of child support overpayments to custodial parents, payments misapplied to the incorrect custodial parents, and payments by noncustodial parents made with bad checks.

As of July 31, 2025, there were 2,296 total active CCU accounts, with a current balance of \$3.5M, from persons who owe debt to CSA. The active CCU accounts were reported to CCU over the last 35 years. A total of 1,769 CCU accounts owed to CSA have never received payment. Under HB 289, any video lottery winnings by these individuals could be intercepted and directed to child support-related debt.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Justin Hayes, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at justin.hayes1@maryland.gov.

In service,



Gloria Brown Burnett
Deputy Secretary for Operations