



**Senate Budget & Tax Committee  
February 18, 2026**

**Senate Bill 456 - Fantasy Competitions - Alterations and Voluntary Exclusion  
Requirements**

**Support with Amendment**

The Maryland Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence supports Senate Bill 456 with amendments. NCADD-Maryland supports this bill's requirement that each fantasy competition operator must include a statement on obtaining assistance with real-money gaming problems on the operator's portal, website, or application, and all marketing material.

However, we oppose the language in the bill that excludes fantasy competitions from the definition of "sports wagering." Gambling can be defined as any betting or wagering no matter how slight or insignificant. With the most recent Maryland Gambling Prevalence Study reports that 32.1% of Marylanders who gambled in daily fantasy sports and 16.1% of Marylanders who gambled in yearly fantasy sports met the criteria for disordered gambling, it is poor public health policy to include this provision.

We therefore suggest the following amendments:

- On page 3, in line 22, strike "DOES NOT CONSTITUTE" and substitute "CONSTITUTES".
- On page 7, delete lines 1 and 2 in their entirety.

With these amendments, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 456.