

SB0538-BT-FAV.pdf

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BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 0538

February, 24 2026

TO: Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 538 - Baltimore City – Raffles – Organizations Affiliated With Professional Baseball and Football Teams

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 538.

SB 538 would add the ability for an organization that is affiliated with a team that plays in Baltimore and is a part of the National Football League to the types of organizations authorized to conduct raffles. The legislation would define the geographic boundaries within which those raffles would be able to be conducted, alter the expiration timeline for permits issued to organizations, and remove the existing sunset on the ability of certain organizations to hold these raffles.

The BCA supports the removal of the sunset on the existing law and the addition of an organization affiliated with the Baltimore Ravens to conduct similar raffles. The raffles that have been underway at Oriole Park at Camden Yards have been successful and help to increase engagement at baseball games as well as raising money for charity.

This bill would not have a large fiscal or operational impact on City operations, and we believe it will have a positive impact on the City and region.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 538.

2026 SB 538 Maryland Center of Excellence on Probi

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Position: UNF



February 24, 2026

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 538 – Baltimore City - Raffles - Organizations Affiliated With
Professional Baseball and Football Teams

Dear Chair Guzzone:

The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (the Center) opposes *SB 538 – Baltimore City - Raffles - Organizations Affiliated With Professional Baseball and Football Teams*. This bill allows an unlimited number of raffles to be conducted by an organization that, among other things, is affiliated with a professional National Football League team that plays its home games in Baltimore City. Raffles involve consideration (payment), chance (drawing), and a prize, thus meeting the definition of gambling. The Center does not support expansion of any form of gambling in Maryland. If you would like more information, please contact Heather Eshleman at heshleman@som.umaryland.edu or (667) 214-2120.

Sincerely,

Heather Eshleman, MPH

Director of Operations
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