

**HB0289\_DHS\_FAV (B and T).pdf**

Uploaded by: Gloria Brown-Burnett

Position: FAV



**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.

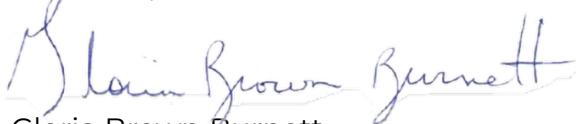
Under HB 289, video lottery operators would be authorized to intercept video lottery winnings from persons with child support-related debts reported to Maryland's Central Collections Unit (CCU). Operators would be required to transfer the intercepted winnings to CCU, which could result in earlier satisfaction 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](mailto:justin.hayes1@maryland.gov).

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Brown Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gloria Brown Burnett  
Deputy Secretary for Operations

**HB 289 - CCU Position Paper\_B&T.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Beskid

Position: FAV

# Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency



Wes Moore, Governor • John Martin, Director

Montgomery Park Business Center  
1800 Washington Blvd., Ste. 330  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Tel: 410-230-8800  
TTY users use Maryland Relay  
[www.mdlottery.com](http://www.mdlottery.com)

**DATE:** April 1, 2026

**BILL NO:** House Bill 289

**BILL TITLE:** Video Lottery Facility Payouts - Intercepts for Restitution Payments, Child Support Payments, and Debts Owed to the State

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

**POSITION:** FAVORABLE

---

House Bill 289, *Video Lottery Facility Payouts - Intercepts for Restitution Payments, Child Support Payments, and Debts Owed to the State*, would authorize the Central Collection Unit (“CCU”) to certify information about debts owed to the State to a video lottery operator for the purposes of enforcing a requirement to intercept certain prize payouts; requiring a video lottery operator to provide certain notice to a debtor that wins a prize to be paid by the licensee and withhold all or part of the prize. The video lottery operators (“casinos”) already intercept prize winnings for CCU and the Child Support Administration from debtors (players) for criminal restitution and child support.

Findings from an audit by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) determined that State casinos did not intercept prize money from Video Lottery Facilities for amounts due to the State because State law only provides for such recoveries from lottery winnings, not casino winnings. OLA recommended the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (“Agency”) pursue legislation to enable casinos to intercept amounts due to the State as their analysis of three casinos determined \$9.2 million in prize money was awarded to patrons that could have been withheld for other state debts. The bill would add language to State Finance and Procurement, § 3-304, Central Collection Unit authorizing these actions.

For the reasons stated above, the Agency requests a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 289.

**hb289.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nicole Mcdonald

Position: FWA

## HB 289 – FAVORABLE

**Topic:** Video Lottery Facility Payouts – Intercepts for Restitution, Child Support, and State Debt

### **The McDonald Mandate: Prioritizing Families and Victims**

#### **To the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:**

My name is **Ms. McDonald**. I am a candidate for Delegate in District 45. I am here to testify as **FAVORABLE** on HB 289. This bill is about simple accountability: putting children and victims at the front of the line.

#### 1. Families Come First

HB 289 establishes a clear priority for intercepting casino winnings, and I support that **Child Support is the number one priority**. In District 45, we have too many households struggling because they aren't receiving the support they are owed. If an individual has the disposable income to gamble at a video lottery facility, they have the income to meet their obligations to their children. This bill ensures that "windfall" money goes where it is needed most—to the families.

#### 2. Restitution is a Debt of Justice

By including **Restitution** as the second priority, this bill honors the victims of crimes. Justice isn't just about a court date; it's about making the victim whole. If someone wins a jackpot while they still owe restitution for the harm they caused, that money belongs to the victim, not the winner.

#### 3. Efficient Accountability

The State is often "slick" at collecting taxes, but we need that same efficiency when it comes to Child Support and Restitution. I support the **Child Support Administration** and the **Central Collection Unit** having the tools to certify these debts and intercept these payouts immediately. We need a system where responsibility is not optional.

### THE CONTRAST: WHAT THE CITIZENS GET VS. WHAT THE STATE MUST DO

#### **WHAT THE CITIZENS GET (The Benefits of HB 289):**

- **Direct Payments:** Arrears for Child Support paid directly to the custodial parent.
- **Victim Restitution:** Criminal restitution paid to victims from gambling windfalls.
- **Debt Resolution:** A clear path to settle state debts through non-essential income.

## **WHAT THE STATE MUST STILL DO (The McDonald Mandate):**

- **Hold Vendors Accountable:** Use this same "intercept" energy to stop payouts to failing state vendors who are stripping services from the disabled (**SB 742**).
- **Protect the Assets:** Stop the "Fire Sale" of properties like **2100 Guilford Avenue**. If we are holding citizens accountable for their debts, we must hold the State accountable for its stewardship of our land.
- **Rainy Day Transparency:** Use the **\$2.2 Billion Rainy Day Fund** to restore the services that were cut, while we use bills like HB 289 to ensure personal responsibility.

## Conclusion

I urge a **FAVORABLE** report. Let's make sure that before a single dollar of a jackpot is spent, the children and the victims are paid first. Let's bring real accountability to Maryland.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Ms. McDonald**

*Candidate for Delegate, District 45*

**By Authority of: Nichole McDonald for District 45, Lonetta Mason, Treasurer**

**oppose hb289.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rebecca Hamilton

Position: UNF

I am writing to respectfully oppose Maryland House Bill 0289.

While the goals of this legislation may be well-intentioned, HB0289 would impose **significant and unnecessary burdens on operators** without clear evidence that these requirements will meaningfully improve outcomes. By adding new regulatory mandates, reporting obligations, and compliance costs, the bill risks diverting time, resources, and attention away from core operations—especially for small and medium-sized entities that already operate under tight margins.

Effective policy should address real problems in ways that minimize administrative burdens. In its current form, HB0289 would increase red tape for operators without demonstrating proportional benefits.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB0289.

Thank you for your time and consideration.