



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, 6 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 Wilkins and Members of the Ways and Means 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.

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.

Current Maryland law already allows Maryland Lottery Gaming and Control Agency and Video Lottery Facility Operators to directly intercept winnings from a noncustodial parent for child support arrears (Family Law Article, § 10-113.1) and for those funds to be transferred to CSA. Under HB 289, Video Lottery Facility Operators would be authorized to intercept video lottery winnings from persons with child support-related debts reported to Maryland's Central Collections Unit (CCU), and the intercepted winnings transferred to CCU. CSA receipt of video lottery winnings collected by CCU could result in these child support-related debts being paid off sooner.

Not every debt owed to CSA is reported to the CCU. We first work to resolve the issue directly prior to reporting the child support debt to CCU. The types of child support debt eligible for reporting to CCU include: recoupment of child support overpayments

to custodial parents, misapplied payments to incorrect custodial parents, and payments made with bad checks by noncustodial parents. As of July 31, 2025, there were 2,296 total active accounts, with a current balance of \$3.5M, from persons who owe debt to CSA that have been reported to CCU over the last 35 years; including a total of 1,769 accounts that 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rafael López', written in a cursive style.

Rafael López
Secretary