



**House Ways & Means Committee
March 5, 2026**

**House Bill 1409
Gaming – Problem Gambling – Prevalence Study and Fund Revenue
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 1409. When the State of Maryland expanded legalized gaming to video lottery terminals and casino tables, the General Assembly saw fit to ensure a funding stream to address the problems that accompany gambling. A fee was assessed for slot machines. A fee was also assessed for casino table games. But we neglected to add an *effective* funding stream with the expansion into sports and fantasy wagering.

This has resulted in an expansion of gambling without the accompanying resources to address the problems. The latest [gambling prevalence study](#) conducted in Maryland in 2024 shows the number of people who participated in on-line sports wagering jumped to 11.5%, up from 3% in 2022. Of those who gambled on on-line sports, 14.8% did so on a daily basis.

The study also showed that 5.7% of Maryland adults met the criteria for “disordered gambling,” up from 2% in 2022. That number jumps to 14.6% for those involved in sports gambling. These numbers also reflect significant racial disparities. There is little doubt that the incidence of problem gambling will continue to grow as we make it easier for people gamble in many different ways.

This bill is estimated to bring in \$6 million to the Problem Gambling Fund. This money could be used to employ more Certified Peer Recovery Specialists who are crucial to the outreach and support to people experiencing problems. The funds could also be used to expand public awareness and prevention campaigns, research, and treatment.

In addition, House Bill 1409 requires the prevalence study conducted by the Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling specifically collect data on the prevalence of problem and pathological gambling among those participating in gambling in-person and on-line. It is important to better understand the impact of the level of accessibility mobile betting has on those who gamble.

As gambling becomes easier to access, especially through mobile technology, more people will need support to address the many problems that accompany it. We urge a favorable report on House Bill 1409.