



Maryland House Ways and Means Committee

March 5, 2026

Support for H.B. 1343

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Wilkins and Committee Members,

My name is Joe Tyrrell, Vice President of Government Relations for Caesars Entertainment representing Horseshoe Baltimore with over 750 employees of which 44% are women and 77% are minority team members that are in 143 management positions. We also proudly operate Caesars Mobile Sportsbook which is a 30% MBE equity owned enterprise based in the City of Baltimore. We support HB 1343 to authorize internet gaming for the existing casinos in the State of Maryland.

Caesars and Horseshoe Baltimore have extensive operational experience in internet gaming and mobile sports wagering. As an operator, manager, or brand licensor in multiple jurisdictions, our best practices include responsible gaming and anti-money laundering programs, age verification, and know-your-customer protocols. These important protections are part of our daily business routine and are in full compliance with our regulatory obligations.

We maintain a robust Responsible Gaming program which includes enforcement of universal, network-wide exclusions across all Caesars gaming facilities, digital internet wagering and mobile sports betting platforms.

We at Caesars and Horseshoe Baltimore strongly support HB 1343 which provides users with a strictly regulated, fair and safe gaming option, it creates a new source of state tax revenue, it creates new in-state jobs; and it caters to a user base primarily engaging through online channels such as a smart-phone mobile device while driving land casino activity.

HB 1343 will protect Maryland consumers from the unregulated illegal markets that undermines the licensed regulated online sports betting and in person casinos that financially benefit the Education Trust Fund; Local Impact Grants that host casinos provide to their communities; the Horse Racing Industry that supports purses and facility maintenance; Business Support where revenue is allocated to the Maryland Small, Minority and Women-Owned Businesses Account and Responsible Gaming Funds that are directed toward problem gambling initiatives and responsible gaming programs.

In existing Internet Gaming states, Caesars' online casino mobile apps cater to a wide audience, made up mainly of digital native users. For example, during the first three years of Internet Gaming operations in New Jersey, over 80 percent of Caesars online players were not players at Caesars New Jersey land casinos. This demonstrates that the online player is largely a new player.

Furthermore, of the 20 percent of Caesars online players that were also players at Caesars New Jersey land casinos, 42 percent had been inactive players that reactivated (by visiting a land casino) after signing up online. This shows that land casinos saw increased visitation by reactivating inactive players through online channels. Caesars is committed to being an omni-channel casino operator, driving digital

players to experience land casino activities and vice versa. Caesars would not support Internet Gaming if there were not compelling evidence that it improves brick-and-mortar gaming businesses.

Internet Gaming also creates in-state jobs. In existing Internet Gaming states not only does Caesars directly employ individuals or hire vendors in the many functions typical to any digital business, but it also needs dealers for live table games, which are among the most popular Internet Gaming offerings.

Lastly, Caesars supports bringing Internet Gaming to Maryland because it is in fact already here. As you may be aware, illegal offshore and sweepstakes casino operators offer real money gaming products throughout the United States, including in Maryland. These products are currently readily available, operate without responsible gaming tools, Know-Your-Customer policies, regulatory oversight or taxation. HB1343 is needed to protect vulnerable users, protect against fraud and money laundering while at the same time generating new tax revenue for Maryland.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB1343. Caesars is happy to serve as a resource for you as your discussions progress. Thank you for your efforts to protect Maryland's union jobs, revenues and MBE's partners.