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HB 1240 - Sports Wagering - Wagers on Historical Horse Races - Authorization

House Ways and Means Committee

March 5, 2026

SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS

Donna S. Edwards

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Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1240. On behalf of 700 affiliated unions, I offer the following comments.

HB 1240 authorizes wagering on Historical Horse Races (HHR), integrating it into the State's existing regulated sports wagering system. Importantly this bill ensures that HHR wagering is governed by the same standards that apply to all sports wagering licensees.

A central part of those standards come within Maryland's sports wagering licensing statute. To qualify for a sports wagering license in Maryland, an operator must demonstrate either: 1) that it already has a collective bargaining agreement in place, or 2) that it has entered into a Labor Peace Agreement (LPA) with every union actively organizing or representing sports wagering workers in the state. These protections were embedded in law to ensure neutrality, and promote labor stability in an expanding industry.

To avoid ambiguity and ensure consistent enforcement, we respectfully request an amendment that expressly references this labor language, making clear that HHR licensee applications must meet the same collective bargaining and labor peace requirements as all other sports wagering licensees.

On page 4, line 10, after "subtitle," insert:

"And subject to § 9-1E-07 of the State Government Article."

This amendment would reinforce Maryland's labor standards, protect workers in newly authorized HHR facilities, and ensure that no operator can enter into the industry without meeting the same obligations already required of existing licensees.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 1240 with amendments.



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