

Adam Streight
County Executive

Dan Schneckenburger
Director of Administration



Office: 410.996.8300
Fax: 800.863.0947

County Information
410.658.4041
410.996.5200

CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND
Office of the County Executive
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2100, Elkton, MD 21921

February 16, 2026

Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **Opposition to House Bill 887 (2026)** — Video Lottery Terminals – Local Impact Grants – Allocation for Fair Hill Purses

Dear Chairs Wilkins and Barnes:

On behalf of Cecil County Government, we respectfully oppose House Bill 887. As drafted, HB 887 would require Cecil County to allocate \$200,000 of its local impact grant funding from video lottery terminals in fiscal years 2027 through 2029 specifically for race purses at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

Local impact grant funding is intended to offset the impacts of hosting gaming facilities and to support core local priorities such as public safety, infrastructure, health services, and economic development. In Cecil County, we have consistently used these funds to support community partnerships and nonprofit organizations that serve residents year-round, strengthening food security, youth programming, behavioral health services, housing stability initiatives, and other essential needs. The flexibility of this funding allows us to respond to evolving community priorities and direct resources where they are most needed.

Mandating a fixed allocation for a specific purpose—regardless of local fiscal conditions or competing demands—limits the County’s ability to responsibly steward these funds. While Fair Hill and equine activities remain important to our identity and economy, decisions regarding the use of local impact grants are best made by locally elected officials accountable to the residents they serve.

For these reasons, Cecil County Government respectfully urges an **unfavorable** report on HB 887.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Adam Streight, the County Executive.

Adam Streight
County Executive

A blue ink signature of Al Miller, the Council President.

Al Miller
Council President