



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

HB 195 FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission - Authority to Conduct Studies on the Use of Emerging Technology – Collaboration

Ways and Means Committee January 5, 2026

Greetings, Chair Wilkins and members of the committee,

MDDCSAM supports the plan to create a work-group on the state lottery and gaming program, including the study of emerging technology, for the purpose of reducing harms.

This is needed since gambling is a growing health crisis which ensnare millions of Americans. Evolving technology, including gamification, online portals, "streamers," etc. continue to fuel the epidemic. Revenue from sports betting is increasing exponentially.

Since 2013, Gambling Disorder has been defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual - Fifth Edition (DSM-5) in a way that is essentially identical to substance use disorders. **(References below)** These disorders can be mild, moderate or severe. Whether behavioral or substance-related, addictions often result in devastating harm, can be fatal, and require treatment

Respectfully,

Joseph Adams, MD, FASAM, addiction & internal medicine,
Co-Chair, MDDCSAM Public Policy Committee

REFERENCES:

DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria: Gambling Disorder

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/dmhas/pgs/dsmdiagnosispdf.pdf>

from:

American Psychiatric Association. (2022). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (5th ed., text rev.). <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425787>