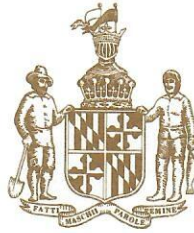


TODD B. MORGAN
Legislative District 29C
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
Room 130, House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**HB610 St. Mary's County - Gaming by Qualified Organization - License Required
Support with Amendment**

House Bill 610 proposes adding St. Mary's County to the list of counties authorized to issue gaming permit to qualified charitable organizations.

The bill stems from an issue involving a St. Mary's County Moose Lodge that was informed by the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA) that its long-standing use of electronic gaming devices could jeopardize its status as a lottery retailer because the devices they owned and operated were not permitted. While similar charitable gaming has long been allowed, St. Mary's County currently lacks a permitting mechanism used by neighboring counties.

MLGCA and St. Mary's County's Attorney were consulted to discuss a way forward. It became clear that creating a local permit would be necessary to ensure compliance and protect charitable organizations from losing their ability to fundraise legally. This bill

establishes that permit, modeled after St. Mary's County's existing bingo permit, but without any licensing fee.

After the bill was drafted, based on feedback from the county, it became clear that classification in the language was needed to ensure that a permit was only required for a device for mechanism for a game of chance, not for raffle events. An amendment is being introduced for this purpose.

HB610 ensures charitable organizations can continue their important community work while operating within the law. I appreciate MLGCA's assistance and guidance on this bill.

I respectfully request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd B. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "O" at the end.

Delegate Todd B. Morgan
Calvert/St. Mary's Counties (29C)