



**House Ways & Means Committee  
February 12, 2026**

**House Bill 371 – State Lottery - Courier Services - Licensure**

**Oppose**

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-MD respectfully opposes House Bill 371. We believe that making gambling as easy as picking up your phone at any hour of any day and having lottery tickets delivered to your doorstep is a dangerous step, especially for young people.

We are concerned that delivery services will be much less likely to verify a person age. Evidence is growing that shows more and more young people are accessing gambling activities online. While no one in this General Assembly is advocating for young people to gamble, we know they are gambling and access will increase. The 2021-22 Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that among high school students in Maryland, 14% at or under the age of 14 reported gambling, and that number rose to 21% of those at least 18 years old. And if couriers do not check identification, this policy will inadvertently put young people at greater risk.

Overall, research shows that more people in Maryland are gambling, and the number of people who are considered to have a gambling disorder has risen as well. ([Statewide Gambling Prevalence in Maryland: 2022](#)) The state should not make it even easier for people to gamble.

We respectfully oppose House Bill 371.