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*Legislative District 28*  
Charles County

Ways and Means Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Gaming

K-12 Education

Chair, Southern Maryland  
House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 1587**

**Gaming – Electronic Instant Bingo Machines – Operation and Maximum Number of Machines**

Good afternoon, Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Edith Patterson, sponsor of HB 1587 - Gaming – Electronic Instant Bingo Machines.

HB 1587 is a modernization bill that updates Maryland's bingo laws to reflect how the industry operates today and removes regulatory constraints that no longer serve a meaningful public purpose. The bill repeals an outdated limit on electronic bingo cards, allows a reasonable increase in the number of machines at certain licensed facilities, and eliminates the requirement that machines print a paper ticket for every game played.

First, the bill allows existing licensed electronic bingo locations in Anne Arundel and Calvert Counties to modestly increase the number of machines they operate. This is not an expansion of gaming locations. These facilities have operated under a moratorium for nearly two decades. They are fully regulated, employ local workers, and generate tax revenue for the State and their counties. This change simply allows measured growth under the continued oversight of the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency.

Second, the bill removes the requirement that a paper ticket print for every game. These tickets often serve little purpose and create unnecessary waste. HB 1587 allows players the option to print a ticket if they choose, while winning vouchers would still be printed to ensure prizes can be redeemed.

Finally, the bill removes an outdated cap on the number of electronic bingo cards that may be played on handheld devices during live games. Electronic bingo is now widely used and helps players track numbers more accurately. The bill does not change the nature of the game. Numbers are still called live and players must be physically present.

After nearly twenty years of experience with this technology, HB 1587 simply updates the law to reflect current practices and remove restrictions that are no longer necessary.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a **favorable report on HB 1587**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Edith J. Patterson  
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