

Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency

Larry Hogan, Governor • John Martin, Director



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TO: Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission
John Martin, Director

FROM: James Butler, Assistant Deputy Director, Chief of Staff

DEPARTMENTS: Government Relations and Human Resources

DATE: January 20, 2022

SUBJECT: Report for the January 2022 Commission Meeting

Following is the status update of ongoing topics in Government Relations and Human Resources for January.

I. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

1. Legislative Update

On January 12, 2022, the Maryland General Assembly convened for the 444th Legislative Session. Below is a bill of interest, from the thirty-nine (39) bills that I am currently tracking during the 2022 session. In addition, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) has requested that the Agency respond to three (3) bills in an effort to determine the fiscal and operational impact on the Agency or Commission, and to assist DLS in preparing its fiscal and policy note on the proposed legislation.

A. Lottery Bills of Interest

- i. **[SB155](#) - *State Lottery - Instant Ticket Lottery Machines - Fraternal Organizations (ITLMs for Homeless Veterans Act)* (Sen. Young)**

This bill would authorize the Lottery Director to issue fraternal organizations a license for not more than five instant ticket lottery machines (ITLM). This bill also would require that 10% of the proceeds from the sale of these game tickets through ITLMs go into a special fund to be used by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Homelessness Solutions Program to assist veterans and their families. The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee has a bill hearing scheduled for January 19, at 1:00 p.m. The bill sponsor has included our previously recommended amendments to this bill, so we have no major issues on this bill; however, we will be submitting a letter of information to discuss some logistical concerns. This bill has been submitted in past legislative sessions, but has never received a favorable Committee vote.

2. Budget Hearings

We are currently scheduled to appear before the following subcommittee to discuss our FY23 budget submission:

- February 18 at 11:30 a.m. – Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee on Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment
- February 21 at 3:00 p.m. – House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and the Environment

3. SWARC Update

The Sports Wagering Application Review Commission (“SWARC”) held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 19, at 9:00 a.m. Due to COVID safety concerns, this meeting was conducted virtually and livestreamed to the public. The SWARC received some updates on the disparity analysis and discussed the issuance of a Survey to Sport Wagering Operators as well as educational outreach initiatives. See <http://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/NoPblTabMtg/SprtWagAppRevCmsn/SWARC-January-19-2022-Agenda.pdf> for additional details.

4. Regulations Update

Below is an update of proposed regulations that were approved by the Commission:

- *Voluntary Exclusion and Responsible Gaming and Fantasy Competition Regulations and Related Amendments* - The AELR Committee approved our request for an emergency action on these regulations. The emergency regulation status began on December 16, 2021, and expires June 3, 2022. The emergency and proposed actions are scheduled to appear in the January 28 edition of the *Maryland Register*.
- *Electronic Table Game Regulation* - This amendment is currently with the *Maryland Register* staff and may get published in the January 28, or later, edition of the *Maryland Register*.
- *Non-Substantive Changes to Proposed Sports Wagering Regulations* - This final action was published in the January 3 edition of the *Maryland Register*. The regulations have been fully promulgated and are effective as of January 13.
- *Substantive Changes to Proposed Sports Wagering Regulations* - The Commission approved these substantive changes at its December 16 commission meeting. These amendments were filed into the ELF system on both an emergency and proposed basis. These amendments may get published in the January 28, or later, edition of the *Maryland Register*.

II. HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS

The Human Resources (HR) Department continues to notify Agency employees and third-parties of individuals testing positive for COVID-19, and arranging for the appropriate cleaning and disinfecting of the work areas. HR has also informed staff where to receive free COVID-19 testing and where to order free at-home COVID-19 tests from the federal government website.

HR continues to work with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on the posting of vacancy announcements for various positions within the Agency. This is an ongoing tasking for HR staff and will be accelerated once the Agency issues more sports wagering licenses.

On January 3, DBM circulated a memorandum announcing significant increases in pay for state employees (i.e., bonuses, step increases, and cost of living allowances). HR is working with staff to ensure pay adjustments are properly reflected in the Workday system.