

Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency



Wes Moore, 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

UNITS: Government Relations, Regulations and Human Resources

DATE: April 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Director Report for the April 2026 Commission Meeting

Following is the status update of ongoing efforts in Government Relations, Regulations, and Human Resources for April.

I. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MATTERS

- A. The 449th Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) ended on April 13, with the adjournment of “Sine Die”. The Agency responded to over 70 fiscal and policy note requests from the Department of Legislative Services, and tracked more than 70 bills of interest during the session. One of the Agency’s departmental bills, SB176 (Chapter 87) /HB289 (Chapter 88), which was cross-filed in both the Senate and House, passed this legislative session. This bill authorizes the casinos to intercept casino prize winnings from players who owe debts to the state through the Central Collections Unit. This bill has a July 1, 2026, effective date, and was approved by the Governor on April 14, 2026. A complete listing of bills of interest concerning lottery, gaming, sports wagering, and local gaming matters is included in the Director of Legislation and Policy’s report.
- B. The MGA passed both *SB282, the Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2027)*, concurring in the Governor’s allowance on the Agency’s budget for Fiscal Year 2028, and *SB284, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BFRA) of 2026*, which amended existing distributions from the State Lottery Fund found in the waterfall under State Government Article §9-120(b).

II. REGULATORY MATTERS

The Agency intends to present to the Commission its recommendations on comments received concerning proposed amendments to the existing promotional play regulations at a future commission meeting. These proposed amendments were published in the August 22, 2025 version of the *Maryland Register* (Volume 52, Issue 17). If the Commission approves the Agency’s recommendations, the Agency will submit the proposed amendments for publication as a Final Action.

III. HUMAN RESOURCES MATTERS

The Agency is still recruiting for various vacant positions across units and continues to submit Individual Hiring Freeze Exception Requests (HFERS) to the Department of Budget and Management so that we will be able to recruit for other positions in which the Agency received retirement and resignation notices.