

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: May 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Director Report for the May 2026 Commission Meeting

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

I. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MATTERS

The Governor has conducted five (5) bill signing ceremonies since the legislative session ended on April 13, the last of which was held on May 26th. There was one bill of interest to the Agency and Commission from the last bill signing, which was SB459 - *Procurement - Advertising - Maryland News Organizations (Local News for Maryland Communities Act of 2026)*. This bill would have required the Agency to ensure that at least 50% of the unit's total dollar value of procurement contracts for advertising is being made directly to Maryland news organizations and required us to prioritize the use of Maryland news organizations that have a primary mission of reporting on and serving underserved communities.

On May 22, the Governor decided to veto this bill explaining the reasoning for his decision in the veto letter. See <https://governor.maryland.gov/media/895/download>

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). The Agency has sent correspondence to the House and Senate budget committees seeking input of these proposed amendments by May 29th. Once received, the Agency will review and advise the Commission on the next course of 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, termination and resignation notices.