

# HOUSE BILL 1014

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By: **Delegates Turner, Kaiser, Ebersole, Luedtke, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2018

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Expansion of Commercial Gaming – Referendum – Sports Wagering**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that the General Assembly may authorize, by law, the State  
4 Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue certain sports wagering licenses;  
5 providing that a license may be issued only to certain entities; submitting this Act to  
6 a referendum of the qualified voters of the State; requiring the State Board of  
7 Elections to do certain things necessary to provide for and hold the referendum; and  
8 generally relating to sports wagering in the State.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
10 That:

11 (a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the General Assembly may authorize,  
12 by law, the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to issue a license to offer sports  
13 wagering in the State.

14 (b) The license authorized under subsection (a) of this section may be issued only  
15 to the holder of:

16 (1) a video lottery operation license; or

17 (2) a license for mile thoroughbred racing or harness racing.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the provisions of Section 1 of  
19 this Act, that authorize certain licensees to offer sports wagering in the State, are subject  
20 to a referendum of the qualified voters of Maryland as provided in Section 3 of this Act, and  
21 upon voter approval of this Act at the general election to be held in November 2018,  
22 legislation shall be required to provide for the operation, regulation, and disposition of  
23 proceeds of sports wagering in the State.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That before this Act, which

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 authorizes additional forms or expansion of commercial gaming, becomes effective, it first  
2 shall be submitted to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State at the general  
3 election to be held in November 2018, in accordance with Article XIX, § 1(e) of the Maryland  
4 Constitution. The State Board of Elections shall do those things necessary and proper to  
5 provide for and hold the referendum required by this section. If a majority of the votes cast  
6 on the question are “For the referred law”, this Act shall become effective on the 30th day  
7 following the official canvass of votes for the referendum, but if a majority of the votes cast  
8 on the question are “Against the referred law”, this Act, with no further action required by  
9 the General Assembly, shall be null and void.

10 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of  
11 Section 3 of this Act and for the sole purpose of providing for the referendum required by  
12 Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018.