

HOUSE BILL 169

C7
HB 963/19 – W&M

0lr1609

By: **Delegates Patterson, Ebersole, Boyce, Fennell, Guyton, Ivey, Kaiser, Lehman, Lisanti, Proctor, and Reznik**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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; declaring the intent
6 of the General Assembly that certain revenues be used for the funding of public
7 education; submitting this Act to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State;
8 requiring the State Board of Elections to do certain things necessary to provide for
9 and hold the referendum; and generally relating to sports wagering in the State.

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

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

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

17 (1) a video lottery operation license; or

18 (2) a license issued by the Maryland Racing Commission under Title 11,
19 Subtitle 5 of the Business Regulation Article.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General
21 Assembly that, if the voters of this State adopt a referendum that authorizes sports
22 wagering in the State, the State revenues generated by sports wagering be used for the
23 funding of public education.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the provisions of Section 1 of
2 this Act, which authorize the General Assembly to authorize, by law, the State Lottery and
3 Gaming Control Commission to issue sports wagering licenses to certain licensees in the
4 State, are subject to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State as provided in Section
5 4 of this Act, and upon voter approval of this Act at the general election to be held in
6 November 2020, legislation shall be required to provide for the operation, regulation, and
7 disposition of proceeds of sports wagering in the State.

8 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That before Section 1 of this Act
9 becomes effective, it first shall be submitted to a referendum of the qualified voters of the
10 State at the general election to be held in November 2020, in accordance with Article XIX,
11 § 1(e) of the Maryland Constitution. The State Board of Elections shall do those things
12 necessary and proper to provide for and hold the referendum required by this section. If a
13 majority of the votes cast on the question are “For the referred law”, this Act shall become
14 effective on the 30th day following the official canvass of votes for the referendum, but if a
15 majority of the votes cast on the question are “Against the referred law”, this Act, with no
16 further action required by the General Assembly, shall be null and void.

17 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of
18 Section 4 of this Act and for the sole purpose of providing for the referendum required by
19 Section 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.