

SENATE BILL 621

C7

(3lr1930)

ENROLLED BILL

— Budget and Taxation / Ways and Means —

Introduced by **Senators Zucker and Hettleman**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Gaming – Sports Wagering – Independent Evaluation of Sports Wagering**
3 **Content and Sports Wagering Facility Application Amendments**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to
5 identify and ~~accredit~~ license certain independent evaluators to evaluate and rate
6 certain sports wagering content provided by certain sports wagering experts, sports
7 wagering influencers, and content partners; ~~requiring the Commission to establish~~
8 ~~standards of practice governing sports wagering content; requiring~~ authorizing
9 certain sports wagering licensees and sports wagering operators to contract with
10 certain independent evaluators for certain purposes under certain circumstances;
11 authorizing the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission and the Sports
12 Wagering Application Review Commission to consider certain requests for certain
13 application amendments received on or before a certain date; and generally relating
14 to sports wagering and the evaluation of sports wagering content.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.



1 BY adding to
 2 Article – State Government
 3 Section 9–1E–17
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
 5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 7 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

8 **Article – State Government**

9 **9–1E–17.**

10 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
 11 INDICATED.

12 (2) “CONTENT PARTNER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO OR A
 13 PLATFORM THAT CREATES SPORTS WAGERING CONTENT FOR A SPORTS WAGERING
 14 LICENSEE THROUGH CONTRACTED WORK, AFFILIATION, OR OTHER PARTNERSHIP.

15 (3) “SPORTS WAGERING CONTENT” MEANS PREDICTIONS OF
 16 SPORTING EVENT OUTCOMES, INCLUDING MONEYLINES, AGAINST THE SPREAD,
 17 TOTALS, FUTURES, PARLAYS, AND OTHER OUTCOMES, WHETHER PROVIDED AT NO
 18 COST OR THROUGH A SUBSCRIPTION OR OTHER PARTNERSHIP.

19 (4) “SPORTS WAGERING EXPERT” OR “SPORTS WAGERING
 20 INFLUENCER” MEANS A PERSON WHO CREATES SPORTS WAGERING CONTENT FOR A
 21 SPORTS WAGERING LICENSEE, A CONTENT PARTNER, OR THE PERSON’S OWN
 22 BENEFIT.

23 (B) (1) ~~ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2023, THE~~ THE COMMISSION
 24 SHALL ~~IDENTIFY AND ACCREDIT~~ LICENSE INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS TO
 25 EVALUATE AND RATE SPORTS WAGERING CONTENT PROVIDED BY SPORTS
 26 WAGERING EXPERTS, SPORTS WAGERING INFLUENCERS, AND CONTENT PARTNERS.

27 (2) IN ORDER TO BE ~~ACCREDITED~~ LICENSED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)
 28 OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR:

29 (I) SHALL HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE
 30 IN EVALUATING AND RATING SPORTS WAGERING CONTENT;

31 (II) SHALL HAVE AN AUDIT PROCESS CONSTRUCTED AND
 32 MAINTAINED BY IN-HOUSE, LICENSED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS;

1 (III) SHALL HAVE EVALUATION AND RATING PROCEDURES THAT
2 ARE UNABLE TO BE ADJUSTED, DUPLICATED, OR ALTERED BY THE PERSONS
3 SUBJECT TO EVALUATION;

4 ~~(IV) MAY NOT HAVE AN OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH A SPORTS~~
5 ~~WAGERING LICENSEE OR SPORTS WAGERING OPERATOR;~~

6 ~~(V)~~ (IV) MAY NOT HAVE ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT FINANCIAL
7 INTEREST, OWNERSHIP, OR MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING HOLDING ANY STOCKS,
8 BONDS, OR OTHER SIMILAR FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN ANY SPORTS WAGERING
9 ACTIVITIES;

10 ~~(VI)~~ (V) MAY NOT RECEIVE OR SHARE IN, DIRECTLY OR
11 INDIRECTLY, THE RECEIPTS OR PROCEEDS OF ANY SPORTS WAGERING ACTIVITIES;
12 AND

13 ~~(VII)~~ (VI) MAY NOT HAVE ANY REVENUE-SHARING
14 RELATIONSHIP WITH OR OTHER FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A SPORTS WAGERING
15 LICENSEE OR SPORTS WAGERING OPERATOR.

16 (3) AN EMPLOYEE OR A PRINCIPAL OF AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR,
17 OR THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR AS AN ENTITY, MAY NOT WAGER ON A SPORTING
18 EVENT.

19 ~~(3)~~ (4) (I) AN EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF
20 THIS PARAGRAPH, AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR MAY NOT BE COMPENSATED BY A
21 SPORTS WAGERING LICENSEE OR SPORTS WAGERING OPERATOR THAT UTILIZES
22 THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR'S EVALUATIONS IN ITS MARKETING MATERIALS FOR
23 INDEPENDENT EVALUATION SERVICES THAT UTILIZES THE INDEPENDENT
24 EVALUATOR'S EVALUATION SERVICES SOLELY FOR MARKETING MATERIALS.

25 (II) AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR MAY BE COMPENSATED BY A
26 SPORTS WAGERING LICENSEE OR SPORTS WAGERING OPERATOR FOR ITS
27 EVALUATION AND RATING OF SPORTS WAGERING CONTENT.

28 ~~(4)~~ (5) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL
29 QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE ~~ACCREDITATION~~ LICENSING OF INDEPENDENT
30 EVALUATORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

31 (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL ~~ESTABLISH STANDARDS OF PRACTICE~~
32 ~~GOVERNING SPORTS WAGERING CONTENT~~ ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT
33 THIS SECTION.

1 (D) ~~ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2024, A~~ A SPORTS WAGERING LICENSEE OR
 2 SPORTS WAGERING OPERATOR THAT ADVERTISES IN THE STATE ~~SHALL~~ MAY
 3 CONTRACT WITH AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR ~~ACCREDITED~~ LICENSED UNDER
 4 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION TO EVALUATE AND RATE THE SPORTS WAGERING
 5 LICENSEE’S SPORTS WAGERING CONTENT, SPORTS WAGERING EXPERTS, SPORTS
 6 WAGERING INFLUENCERS, AND CONTENT PARTNERS.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Lottery and Gaming
 8 Control Commission and the Sports Wagering Application Review Commission may
 9 consider a request to amend a Class B–2 sports wagering facility license application for the
 10 purpose of altering the proposed location of the sports wagering facility if:

11 (1) a sports wagering facility license was awarded to the applicant on or
 12 before February 15, 2023; and

13 (2) a written request to amend the application is received by the State
 14 Lottery and Gaming Control Commission and the State Wagering Application Review
 15 Commission on or before December 31, 2023.

16 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 17 July 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.