



March 25, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West  
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee:

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association ("MTHA"), the Maryland Jockey Club ("MJC"), and Maryland Horse Breeders Association ("MHBA") support House Bill 940 to implement legalized sports betting in Maryland. This legislation will keep our State competitive with our neighboring jurisdictions and the 18 States that have enacted sports betting laws since 2018.


As passed by the House, HB 940 authorizes the Sports Wagering and Application Review Commission to award 27 sports wagering licenses: 12 Class A wagering facility licenses; up to 10 Class B wagering facility licenses; and up to 15 mobile wagering licenses.


Similar to provisions included in Senate Bill 4 of 2020, we respectfully request that the Committee consider an amendment that, at a minimum, authorizes a sports wagering licensee to accept sports wagers at an OTB facility – while allowing OTBs to be eligible to pursue Class B and mobile licenses if they choose. Racetracks in Pennsylvania, Delaware and West Virginia already have sports betting. HB940 should also ensure that the Maryland Jockey Club is granted a mobile sports betting license and a license for brick and mortar sports wagering at both Laurel Park and Pimlico.

Chapter 4 of the 2007 Special Session established Maryland's VLT gaming program to expressly benefit the State's K-12 public education system, and, to also benefit Maryland's historic horse racing industry. With the proposed expansion of mobile, Internet and in-person sports betting, Maryland's horse racing industry faces new competition for wagering dollars and respectfully asks the Committee to include existing brick-and-mortar OTBs as part of any proposed framework.

Very truly yours,

  
Timothy L. Keefe  
President, MTHA

  
Sal Sinatra  
President, MJC

  
Dr. Michael J. Harrison, DVM  
President, MHBA