



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 940 – Sports Wagering
SPONSOR: The Speaker
HEARING DATE: March 24, 2021
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 940 – Sports Wagering – AS AMENDED** that legalizes live, in-person and electronic sports wagering as of June 1, 2021. Funds from sports wagering are explicitly designated for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund.

Restrictions on Wagering

The bill restricts wagering to: professional sports; collegiate sports; the Olympics; or other international sporting events. Wagers can also be placed on electric sports or video game competitions (so long as competitors are at least age 18); and auto racing events. Wagering on horseracing is permitted under certain circumstances. The bill explicitly prohibits wagering on high school sports is explicitly prohibited.

Much of the implementation of the legislation is delegated to the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission that must adopt regulations that establish the actual application for a license; and how applicants disclose financial/criminal backgrounds of individuals associated with applications; providing fingerprints; as well as the terms for suspending/revoking a license when necessary.

Minority and Women-Owned Business Participation

To the extent permitted by state and federal law, the General Assembly wishes to maximize the participation of minority and women-owned businesses to participate in the sports wagering industry.

Sports Wagering Licensees are subject to minority business participation goal established by the Special Secretary for the Office of Small, Minority and Women Business Affairs and applies to: construction related to sports wagering; procurement

to the operation of sports wagering (equipment and services.) Subject to periodic review and potential sunset in 2024.

The bill requires that if an applicant seeks investors, the applicant must make serious good-faith efforts to solicit and interview a reasonable number of minority investors; submit a statement in application that includes names and addresses of all minority investors interviewed regardless of whether they purchased an equity share in the application. Must re-affirm this commitment if trying to acquire venture capital in the future.

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive respectfully requests a **Favorable** report on **House Bill 940 – Sports Wagering, as amended.**