



AMENDMENT REQUESTED TO SB0929

by
Mayor Patrick J. "Irish" Mahoney
Chesapeake Beach, MD

The Mayor of the Town of Chesapeake Beach, MD is requesting a favorable report, with an amendment, to SB0929:

To allow municipalities that passed an admission and amusement tax ordinance that includes sports betting for class A1, class A2, class B1 and class B2 licenses prior to February 11th, 2022 be excluded from any restriction of collecting a sports betting tax in their jurisdiction.

On January 20, 2022 the Town of Chesapeake Beach passed ordinance #O-21-7 to expand admission and amusement tax for the Town of Chesapeake Beach to include sports betting for class A1, class A2, class B1 and class B2 licenses on gross revenue from sports gambling at a rate of \$0.05. This ordinance became effective February 9, 2022.

This tax was established to off set the estimated \$400,000 loss in admission and amusement revenue, the Town receives, by the introduction of sports betting within the Town limits.

Gambling activities within the Town pose a significant burden on Town citizens prompting a 2020 ballot question where voters responded overwhelmingly, with over 70% **voting against**, expanded gambling activities in the Town.

Admission and Amusement tax revenue comprises 30% the Town's annual operating budget. Restricting the Town's ability to collect tax revenue from all Admission and Amusement activities, to include sports betting, reduces the Town's ability to respond to the costs these activities bring to the Town; to include, increased police coverage and support of our local first responders.