



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association
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TO: House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association

DATE: February 28, 2024

RE: **HOUSE BILL 352** – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024 – Commissions to Licensed Lottery Agents

On behalf of Maryland’s convenience stores and energy distributors, MAPDA urges the committee to REJECT the proposed cuts to commissions for licensed lottery agents.

The combined action amounts to a **\$35 million cut** to the 4,100+ lottery agents located throughout Maryland. That equates to roughly \$8,500 per agent who will no longer have that revenue to operate their locations.

The current commission on sales was just raised to 6.0% from 5.5% in 2022 with the passage of House Bill 1179. It capped an agreement made in 2012 that acknowledged lottery agents would be hurt with the expansion of gaming. Cutting it would *not* be a “pre-COVID reset” of budget priorities as has been mentioned.

Licensed lottery agents continue to provide an invaluable service to the Lottery and Gaming Control Agency as the primary operator of the state’s lottery. Cutting the commission of agents disincentivizes them from continuing to provide these products.

For these reasons, MAPDA urges the committee to REJECT the proposed cuts to lottery agent commissions in HB352.

Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.