

HOUSE BILL 797

C7
HB 526/24 – W&M

5lr2320

By: **Delegates Buckel and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sports Wagering – Licenses and Application of Minority Business Enterprise**
3 **Program Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Sports Wagering Application Review Commission, subject
5 to certain limitations, to accept and consider applications for sports wagering facility
6 licenses and mobile sports wagering licenses submitted before a certain date;
7 altering the termination date of certain provisions of law requiring the application
8 of the Minority Business Enterprise Program to the sports wagering industry; and
9 generally relating to sports wagering and the Sports Wagering Application Review
10 Commission.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – State Government
13 Section 9–1E–07(b) and 9–1E–15(h)(4)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – State Government**

19 9–1E–07.

20 (b) (1) The findings and evidence relied on by the General Assembly for the
21 continuation of the Minority Business Enterprise Program under Title 14, Subtitle 3 of the
22 State Finance and Procurement Article are incorporated in this subsection.

23 (2) To the extent practicable and authorized by the United States
24 Constitution, a sports wagering licensee shall comply with the State’s Minority Business
25 Enterprise Program.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) (i) On or before 6 months after the issuance of a sports wagering license under this subtitle, the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General and the sports wagering licensee, shall establish a clear plan for setting reasonable and appropriate minority business enterprise participation goals and procedures for the procurement of goods and services related to sports wagering, including procurement of construction, equipment, and ongoing services.

(ii) To the extent practicable, the goals and procedures specified in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall be based on the requirements of Title 14, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance and Procurement Article and the regulations implementing that subtitle.

(4) On or after July 1, [2024] **2026**, the provisions of this subsection and any regulations adopted under this subsection shall be of no effect and may not be enforced.

9–1E–15.

(h) (4) The Sports Wagering Application Review Commission shall:

(i) to the extent permitted by federal and State law, actively seek to achieve racial, ethnic, and gender diversity when awarding licenses; [and]

(ii) encourage applicants who qualify as a minority business enterprise, as defined in § 14–301 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, or who are small, minority, or women-owned business entities to apply for sports wagering licenses under this subtitle; **AND**

(III) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS UNDER § 9–1E–06 OF THIS SUBTITLE, ACCEPT AND CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR A SPORTS WAGERING LICENSE THAT IS SUBMITTED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.