

SENATE BILL 725

C7

5lr3202

By: **Senator Ellis**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Charles County – Gaming – Video Lottery Operation License and Video Lottery**
3 **Terminals**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the awarding of an additional video lottery operation
5 license and a certain number of additional video lottery terminals for a video lottery
6 facility at a certain location in Charles County; authorizing the Governor to
7 reconstitute the Video Lottery Facility Location Commission for a certain purpose;
8 submitting this Act to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State; and generally
9 relating to video lottery operation licenses and video lottery terminals in Charles
10 County.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – State Government
13 Section 9–1A–02(d)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – State Government
18 Section 9–1A–05(a) and 9–1A–36(f), (h)(1), (i)(1), (r)(1), and (t)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – State Government**

24 9–1A–02.

25 (d) Only a person with a video lottery operation license issued under this subtitle

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



may offer a video lottery terminal and table games for public use in the State under this subtitle.

9–1A–05.

(a) The Video Lottery Facility Location Commission established under § 9–1A–36 of this subtitle may not:

(1) award more than **[six] SEVEN** video lottery operation licenses;

(2) award more than **[16,500] 18,000** video lottery terminals for operation at video lottery facilities in the State;

(3) subject to the requirements of § 9–1A–36(h) and (i) of this subtitle, award more than 4,750 terminals for operation at any video lottery facility; and

(4) for a location in Allegany County:

(i) award a video lottery operation license to an applicant that does not agree to purchase the Rocky Gap Lodge and Resort; and

(ii) notwithstanding § 9–1A–36(i)(2) of this subtitle, award more than 1,500 video lottery terminals for operation at a video lottery facility in Allegany County.

9–1A–36.

(f) The Video Lottery Facility Location Commission may award not more than **[six] SEVEN** video lottery operation licenses to qualified applicants, through a competitive process consistent with the process for competitive sealed proposals under Title 13 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(h) (1) In order to qualify for a video lottery operation license under this section, a proposed video lottery facility shall be located in one of the following counties:

(i) a location in Anne Arundel County, within 2 miles of MD Route 295;

(ii) a location in Cecil County, within 2 miles of Interstate 95;

(iii) a location on State property associated with the Rocky Gap State Park in Allegany County;

(iv) a location in Worcester County, within 1 mile of the intersection of Route 50 and Route 589;

(v) a location in Baltimore City that is:

1. located:

A. in a nonresidential area;

B. within one-half mile of Interstate 95;

C. within one-half mile of MD Route 295; and

D. on property that is owned by Baltimore City on the date on which the application for a video lottery operation license is submitted; and

2. not adjacent to or within one-quarter mile of property that is:

A. zoned for residential use; and

B. used for a residential dwelling on the date the application for a video lottery operation license is submitted; [or]

(vi) a location in Prince George's County within a 4-mile radius of the intersection of Bock Road and St. Barnabas Road; OR

(VII) SUBJECT TO § 16-105 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE, A LOCATION IN CHARLES COUNTY ON A VESSEL ON THE POTOMAC RIVER THAT CAN BE ACCESSED BY THE PIER IN COLONIAL BEACH, VIRGINIA.

(i) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, the Video Lottery Facility Location Commission may not allocate more than the following number of video lottery terminals for:

(i) a location in Anne Arundel County – 4,750 video lottery terminals;

(ii) a location in Baltimore City – 3,750 video lottery terminals;

(iii) a location in Cecil County – 2,500 video lottery terminals;

(IV) A LOCATION IN CHARLES COUNTY – 1,500 VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS;

[(iv)] (v) a location in Prince George's County – 3,000 video lottery terminals;

[(v)] (VI) a location in Rocky Gap State Park (Allegany County) – 1,500 video lottery terminals; and

1 [(vi)] **(VII)** a location in Worcester County – 2,500 video lottery
2 terminals.

3 (r) (1) Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to require the Video Lottery
4 Facility Location Commission to award all [six] **SEVEN** video lottery operation licenses
5 authorized under this subtitle.

6 (t) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Video
7 Lottery Facility Location Commission shall terminate on January 1, 2015.

8 (2) The Governor may reconstitute the Video Lottery Facility Location
9 Commission, which shall include the appointment of new members based on the criteria
10 established under subsections (b) and (c) of this section:

11 (i) one year prior to the expiration of a video lottery operation
12 license; [or]

13 (ii) following the revocation or surrender of a video lottery operation
14 license; **OR**

15 **(III) FOR THE PURPOSE OF AWARDING A VIDEO LOTTERY**
16 **OPERATION LICENSE IN CHARLES COUNTY.**

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the provisions of Section 1 of
18 this Act authorize the Video Lottery Facility Location Commission to award one video
19 lottery operation license in Charles County with the authorization subject to a referendum
20 of the qualified voters of Maryland as provided in Section 3 of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That before this Act, which
22 authorizes the additional forms or expansion of commercial gaming, becomes effective, it
23 shall first be submitted to a referendum of the qualified voters of the State at the general
24 election to be held in November 2026, in accordance with Article XIX, § 1(e) of the Maryland
25 Constitution. The State Board of Elections shall do those things necessary and proper to
26 provide for and hold the referendum required by this section. If a majority of the votes cast
27 on the question are “For the referred law”, this Act shall become effective on the 30th day
28 following the official canvass of votes for the referendum, but if a majority of the votes cast
29 on the question are “Against the referred law”, this Act, with no further action required by
30 the General Assembly, shall be null and void.

31 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 3 of this
32 Act and for the sole purpose of providing for the referendum required by Section 3 of this
33 Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.