

BILL: Senate Bill 228
TITLE: Video Lottery Terminals - Disposition of Unclaimed Winnings
DATE: February 8, 2017
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education, supports Senate Bill 228.

This bill would reasonably amend the law to require that a jackpot won at a video lottery terminal (VLT) that is not claimed by the winner within 182 days after the jackpot is won, would become the property of the State and be deposited into accounts including the Education Trust Fund (ETF).

MABE appreciates the role of the Education Trust Fund (ETF) as the repository of a significant portion of the state revenues generated through licensed gaming activities. This is especially true in the case of VLT gaming revenue relative to table game revenue. MABE appreciates the proposal in SB 228 for more than 75% of the unclaimed winnings to be deposited into the ETF.

In the future, as long-term funding strategies are considered to enhance state investments in public education, MABE anticipates the consideration of proposals for school systems to receive a higher percentage of VLT and table game revenues, and to reform the ETF to provide supplemental education funding. In this context, MABE certainly supports this bill's proposal to designate the ETF as the repository of unclaimed VLT jackpots.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 228.