

BILL: Senate Bill 1122
TITLE: Education - Commercial Gaming Revenues - Constitutional Amendment
DATE: March 29, 2018
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Appropriations Committee
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the state's local boards of education, supports Senate Bill 1122.

Senate Bill 1122 would propose an amendment to the Maryland State Constitution to convert the Education Trust Fund as a repository of gaming revenue which may be supplanted, into a source of supplemental education funding which must be included in the Governor's annual state budgets in excess of what is otherwise mandated by school funding formulas. MABE supports this bill because it would ensure that gaming revenue in the Education Trust Fund contributes to real progress towards a world class public school system throughout Maryland.

Senate Bill 1122 passed the Senate with amendments to initiate phased in funding increases sooner, beginning in FY 2020 rather than FY 2021. In addition, amendments clarify that additional funding will be provided through the funding formulas established in the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act. As amended, this legislation includes the following Constitutional Amendment language:

“Requires the Governor to include in the annual State budget, as supplemental funding for prekindergarten through grade 12 in public schools, the revenues from video lottery operation licenses and any other commercial gaming dedicated to public education in an amount above the level of State funding for education in public schools provided by the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002 (otherwise known as the Thornton legislation) in not less than the following amounts: \$125 million in fiscal year 2020; \$250 million in fiscal year 2021; \$375 million in fiscal year 2022; and 100% of commercial gaming revenues dedicated to public education in fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter.”

Again, MABE strongly supports this legislation as essential to the goal of securing meaningful increases in State funding for public schools for the first time since before the great recession. Clearly, supplemental funding provided from gaming revenue would contribute to the State's ability to launch efforts to fully fund and implement many of the recommendations being developed and costed-out by the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

For these reasons, MABE urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 1122.