

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**1995 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. CR-83-1995

Proposed by Council Member Scott

Introduced by Council Member Scott

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction November 21, 1995

**RESOLUTION**

A RESOLUTION concerning

Casino Gambling in Maryland

For the purpose of expressing the County Council's Opposition to the expansion of casino gambling in the State of Maryland

WHEREAS, the Governor of Maryland appointed a task force to examine the concept of commercial casino gambling in the State, which has recommended against the expansion of casino gambling in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene concluded that the State of Maryland has approximately 50,000 compulsive gamblers; and

WHEREAS, gambling redistributes acquired wealth and income among participants, but does not add economic value to any productive sector of the State's economy; and

WHEREAS, compulsive gamblers divert economic resources and activity from productive sectors of the State and local economies to non-productive sectors of the economy through lost time from work, economic and emotional damage to the family unit, and criminal activity associated with debt incurred as a result of compulsive gambling activity; and

WHEREAS, commercial casino gambling activity severely impacts other economic activities in the State such as restaurants, recreation, amusement, and entertainment facilities not associated with or operated in conjunction with commercial casino gambling activity; and

WHEREAS, local commercial casino gambling attracts local gamblers who do not patronize additional restaurants, recreation, amusement, and entertainment facilities outside the commercial casino.

WHEREAS, local commercial casino gambling would draw local gambling activity away from local charitable casino night fundraising activities that would result in a decrease in direct revenues to charitable organizations within the County and a decrease in tax revenues payable to the County; and WHEREAS, tax revenues based upon gambling activities are regressive, unstable, and unreliable sources of government income; and

WHEREAS, the State and County can anticipate a decrease in sales and amusement tax revenues from non-gambling-related activity and an increase in the costs of providing social services to the individuals and families affected by compulsive gambling and for crime prevention and law enforcement services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the expansion of casino gambling in the State of Maryland is vigorously opposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State elected officials are encouraged to act in the best interests of the citizens of the State to prevent the proliferation of commercial casino gambling and to encourage real growth in productive sectors of the State economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the foregoing resolution shall be forwarded by the Clerk of the Council to the Governor and to each member of the Prince George's County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1995.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:

Anne T. MacKinnon  
Chairwoman

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney  
Clerk of the Council