

Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission

Larry Hogan, Governor



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December 28, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Kasemeyer and Delegate Kaiser:

In compliance with Chapter 479, Section 2, Acts of 2016, the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission (MLGCC) through the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA) submits its reports on Donations from Video Lottery Facility Players to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (Report). This Report summarizes yearly donations from casino players to the MVTF since the inception of the pilot program, where donation boxes are mounted inside the casino and how donations are transmitted to the MVTF.

Enclosed is a copy of the MLGCC's Report for your review and consideration. If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact James Butler, Managing Director, Organizational Compliance, at 410-230-8781.

Sincerely,

Gordon Medenica
Commission Secretary

Enclosure

c: Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor's Office
Commissioners, MLGCC
Gina M. Smith, Deputy Director/CFO, MLGCA
Jim Nielsen, Assistant Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer, MLGCA
Jim Logue, Managing Director, Gaming, MLGCA
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MARYLAND LOTTERY AND GAMING

**Donations from Video Lottery
Facility Players to the
Maryland Veterans Trust Fund**

In compliance with Chapter 479, Section 2, Acts of 2016

December 28, 2018

Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission

1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 330, Baltimore, MD 21230

General

In compliance with Chapter 479, Section 2, Acts of 2016 and under provisions set forth in State Government Article §9-1A-04(d)(19) of the Annotated Code of Maryland,¹ the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission (“MLGCC”) shall submit a report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means, about a pilot program that allows video lottery facility (“casino”) players to make donations dedicated to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (“MVTF”). The Commission respectfully submits its report on donations from casino players to the MVTF since the inception of the pilot program.

Background

The Maryland General Assembly (“MGA”) passed legislation in 2016 that implemented a pilot program in which casino players could make donations of coins, (*e.g.* money, chips, or vouchers) to the MVTF to support its good causes. Hollywood Casino Perryville was selected as the casino to launch this pilot program in October 2016. In the three months following the launch of the pilot program, Hollywood Casino Perryville players donated \$1,737.31. As a result of the acceptance of the pilot program, the MGA passed legislation requiring that all Maryland casino operator implement a similar donation program to the MVTF.²

Overview

In compliance with this statutory mandate, the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (“MLGCA”) promulgated regulations in October 2017, implementing this program at all Maryland casinos and requiring each casino to establish a procedure to implement this mandate. MLGCA’s regulations (COMAR 36.03.10.51) require:

.51 Donation of Coins from Gaming Payouts.

A. A facility operator shall offer players the opportunity to donate to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund by providing at least one donation box or container that is:

- (1) Clearly marked as accepting donations for the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund;
- (2) Equipped with an opening that is large enough for players to donate coins, cash, gaming chips, gaming tickets, or other items that are redeemable for cash at the facility;
- (3) Capable of being locked;
- (4) Securely attached to a stationary object or otherwise secured to prevent unauthorized removal of the box or container; and
- (5) Located near an exit, cage, customer service window or kiosk, or in any other part of the facility that experiences high player traffic.

B. A facility operator shall develop and include in the internal controls submitted to and approved under Regulation .05 of this chapter procedures and controls addressing the donation and security of items described in §A(2) of this regulation as donations to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

C. An item that was deposited into a Maryland Veterans Trust Fund box or container described in §A of this regulation may not be distributed as an unclaimed video lottery terminal jackpot under COMAR 36.03.01.03.

Since October 1, 2017, each casino has mounted at least one donation box near the facility’s entrance/exit or cashier’s cage. In calendar year 2017, casino players donated \$10,873.55, and as of November 2018, casino players donated \$18,710.78, for a grand total of \$31,321.64 since the inception of the pilot program.

Recommendations

The MLGCC recommends to the MGA that the existing donation program remain in place.

¹ Chapter 479 of the 2016 Laws of Maryland (HB 202).

² SB 1125/HB 1537, enacted October 1, 2017.

HOLLYWOOD Casino®

— PERRYVILLE, MD —

Hollywood Casino Perryville (“Hollywood”) collects donations from its donation box on a weekly basis, and sends the donations monthly to the MVTF via an automated clearing house (ACH) transaction, usually the first business day after month end. Hollywood’s donation box is mounted on a wall next to the valet/coat check at the casino’s main entrance. Hollywood has collected the following amounts since October 2016.

CY 2016	\$1,737.31
CY 2017	\$8,532.72
CY 2018	\$8,652.94 (11/30/18 YTD)



OCEAN DOWNS CASINO™

Ocean Downs Casino (“Ocean Downs”) collects donations from its donation box on a quarterly basis, and sends the donations quarterly to the MVTF via a check. Ocean Downs’ donation box is mounted on a wall adjacent to the main cashier’s cage. Ocean Downs has collected the following amounts since October 2017.

CY 2017	\$27.27
CY 2018	\$370.08 (11/30/18 YTD)



Live!

CASINO • HOTEL
MARYLAND

Live Casino Hotel (“Live”) collects donations from its donation box on a monthly basis, and sends the donations quarterly to the MVTF via a check. Live’s donation box is mounted on a wall located at the valet entrance near a restaurant and an ATM. Live has collected the following amounts since October 2017.

CY 2017	\$5.70
CY 2018	\$102.76 (11/30/18 YTD)



ROCKY GAP

CASINO • RESORT

Rocky Gap Casino Resort (“Rocky Gap”) collects donations from its donation box on a monthly basis, and sends the donations quarterly to the MVTF via a check. Rocky Gap’s donation box is mounted on a wall at the casino’s main entrance. Rocky Gap has collected the following amounts since October 2017.

CY 2017	\$672.61
CY 2018	\$3,645.48 (11/30/18 YTD)





Horseshoe Casino Baltimore (“Horseshoe”) collects donations from its donation box on a monthly basis, and sends the donations quarterly to the MVTF via a check.

Horseshoe’s donation box is mounted on a wall at the second floor entrance near a security podium at the end of the pedestrian bridge.

Horseshoe has collected the following amounts since October 2017.

CY 2017	\$559.00
CY 2018	\$5,135.63 (11/30/18 YTD)



MGM National Harbor Casino (“MGM”) collects donations from its donation boxes on a monthly basis, and sends the donations quarterly to the MVTF via a check. MGM’s donation boxes are mounted on a wall at both casino entrances/exits. MGM has collected the following amounts since October 2017.

CY 2017	\$176.25
CY 2018	\$803.89 (11/30/18 YTD)

