



Representative Marvin L. Abney, Chairman  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
(Via email: [HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov))

April 29, 2026

OPPOSITION LETTER TO H8186 - RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- VIDEO LOTTERY,  
GAMES, TABLE GAMES AND SPORTS WAGERING

Dear Chairman Abney,

We at Caesars Entertainment in partnership with IGT Play Sports, proudly operate the Sportsbook Rhode Island app in partnership with the Rhode Island Lottery stand united to oppose H8186 as it will have negative revenue impacts to the general fund and key programs in the state.

Sportsbook Rhode Island has generated \$134 million for the State since launching in 2019. The Rhode Island Sportsbook's ability to deliver revenues to the general fund, education and problem gambling programs should be protected and fostered by the General Assembly.

The current single-brand model works best for Rhode Island. The revenue contribution has been strong and resilient despite competition from Massachusetts launching legalized sports betting in early 2023.

Rhode Island already generates strong sports betting revenue per adult on average. Sportsbook Rhode Island contributed \$17.44 revenue to the state per person which exceeded Connecticut by 2.5x and Vermont by 1.8x which are operated by both Connecticut and Vermont who have DraftKings, FanDuel and Fanatics, respectively.

H8186 only benefits the out of state operators and disrupts the current economic model, which would have to result in a much lower revenues and require significantly increased regulatory and administrative staffing costs to the State.

H8186 will also send revenues, jobs and casino visitation out of the state. Our partner IGT remains a long-standing Rhode Island-based business, with employment and domiciled headquarters in the state.

IGT and Caesars remains committed to continued investment in the sports betting product to sustain and grow state revenues.

Creating a competitive sports betting market will result in aggressive advertising and promotion across traditional and social media that has been seen in neighboring states and can negatively impact vulnerable populations. The continued operation of Sportsbook Rhode Island as the sole offering under the auspices of the Rhode Island Lottery ensures continued commitment to responsible gaming, advertising and promotions.

In conclusion, H8186 is wrong for Rhode Island. Changing the Rhode Island mobile sports wagering model to a multi-operator market will negatively impact State revenues for the general fund, education and responsible gaming programs. In addition, the multi-operator market will increase regulatory and marketing costs to the Rhode Island State Lottery as well.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joseph Tyrrell

Regional Vice President, Government Relations

Caesars Entertainment, Inc.

[jtyrrell@caesars.com](mailto:jtyrrell@caesars.com)