

## **GAMING REGULATIONS**

### *Gaming in the Commonwealth, 2019*

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Evaluating gambling prevention and treatment efforts** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including in any legislation authorizing additional forms of gaming a requirement that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services contract with a university or other expert to conduct an ongoing evaluation of problem gambling in Virginia and the effectiveness of the state's prevention and treatment efforts. (Recommendation 3)

**Competitive selection process for casino licensing** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including a requirement in any casino authorizing legislation that casino licenses will be awarded through a competitive selection process. (Recommendation 6)

**Evaluation committee for casino proposals** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including a provision in any casino authorizing legislation that establishes a committee to evaluate and select proposals for the operation and development of casinos, and which comprises individuals with business, finance, and operations experience and who represent both the statewide and local perspectives. (Recommendation 7)

**Independent consultant to review casino proposals** ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including a requirement in any casino authorizing legislation that an independent consultant, hired by the state, assess the accuracy and reasonableness of the projected financial, economic, and other benefits included in casino development proposals prior to selecting a winning proposal. (Recommendation 8)

#### **POLICY OPTIONS**

*Staff typically propose policy options rather than make recommendations when (i) the action is a policy judgment best made by elected officials—especially the General Assembly, (ii) evidence suggests action could potentially be beneficial, or (iii) a report finding could be addressed in multiple ways.*

**Collaboration between behavioral health providers and gaming operators** ► The General Assembly could include in any legislation authorizing additional forms of gaming a requirement that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and Virginia's gaming oversight agency establish and coordinate a stakeholder group to enable collaboration among prevention and treatment providers and gaming operators. (Option 1)

**Licensing nongaming employees and vendors** ► The General Assembly could consider including language in any casino authorizing legislation a requirement that nongaming vendors and nongaming employees be licensed by the gaming oversight agency. (Option 3)

**Potential gaming oversight consolidation** ► The General Assembly could consider including language in any casino authorizing legislation that requires an evaluation of the roles, responsibilities, and performance of all Virginia gaming oversight agencies after additional forms of gaming have been implemented to determine whether any consolidation of gaming oversight responsibilities is warranted. (Option 4)