The State of Maryland

Executive Department

ORDER
OF THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

CLOSING CASINOS, RACETRACKS AND SIMULCAST BETTING FACILITIES

WHEREAS, A state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency was proclaimed on March 5, 2020, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the state, and the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency still exists;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, is a public health catastrophe and has been confirmed in five Maryland counties;

WHEREAS, To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health recommend canceling large gatherings and social distancing in smaller gatherings;

WHEREAS, The currently known and available scientific evidence and best practices support limitations on large gatherings and social distancing to prevent exposures and transmissions, and reduce the threat to especially vulnerable populations, including older individuals and those with chronic health conditions;

WHEREAS, To reduce the threat to human health caused by transmission of the novel coronavirus in Maryland, and to protect and save lives, it is necessary and reasonable that individuals in the state refrain from congregating; and

WHEREAS, To protect the public health, welfare, and safety, prevent the transmission of the novel coronavirus, control the spread of COVID-19, and save lives, it is necessary to control and direct the occupancy and use of casino, racetrack, and simulcast betting facility buildings and premises in Maryland, and the movement of individuals to and from such buildings and premises;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT

LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, AND IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITHIN THE STATE, DO HEREBY ORDER:

I. The occupancy and use of the following buildings and premises (the "Gaming and Racing Facilities") are controlled by this Order:

a. MGM National Harbor
b. Live! Casino & Hotel
c. Horseshoe Casino Baltimore
d. Hollywood Casino Perryville
e. Ocean Downs Casino
f. Rocky Gap Casino Resort
g. Laurel Park
h. Pimlico Race Course
i. Timonium Race Course
j. Fair Hill Races
k. Rosecroft Raceway
l. Ocean Downs
m. All simulcast betting facilities in the State, to the extent not otherwise included in the buildings and premises listed above.

II. All areas of the Gaming and Racing Facilities otherwise open to the general public for gaming, betting, wagering, and other similar activities (including, without limitation, video lottery facilities and table game areas) are hereby closed to the general public, effective 12:01 a.m. on March 16, 2020.

III. Each law enforcement officer of the State or a political subdivision shall execute and enforce this Order.

IV. A person who knowingly and willfully violates this Order is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding $5,000 or both.

V. This Order remains effective until the state of emergency has been terminated and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded, or until rescinded, superseded, amended, or revised by additional orders.

VI. The effect of any statute, rule, or regulation of an agency of the State or a political subdivision inconsistent with this order is hereby suspended.

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 15TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020, AND EFFECTIVELY IMMEDIATELY.

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor