

March 1, 2022

Via Hand Delivery

Hon. Robert Rita
State Representative – 28th District
267-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Senate Bill 2973

Dear Chairman Rita:

On behalf of the iDevelopment and Economic Association (iDEA Growth), I am writing to thank you for your lead sponsorship of SB 2973 and to ask that you help shepherd this bill for passage by the Illinois House of Representatives before its adjournment on April 8.

iDEA Growth is a nationwide trade association for companies that are active in online sports betting, online poker, and online casino games. Our membership – 32 companies and growing – represents every segment of this emerging industry and has vast experience operating in regulated sports betting jurisdictions across the United States. It is worth noting that many iDEA members are licensed by the Illinois Gaming Board to offer their services to consumers in the State.

Many iDEA members hold supplier licenses under the Illinois Sports Wagering Law. SB 2973 fixes an unintended problem in the law that resulted in the supplier renewal fee being four times as large as the initial fee. A supplier licensee is required to pay a \$150,000.00 fee for the first 4-year term. However, rather than reducing the cost for the renewal, the law requires that supplier licensees pay \$150,000.00 **annually** for each year they hold their license following the first 4-year term.

Other renewal fees in the Act are only a fraction of the initial fee. The supplier license is the only license where the renewal fee is larger than the initial fee, and in this case, substantially larger. SB 2973 would therefore set the renewal fee at \$50,000 for the 4-year renewal period, putting the fee in line with other renewal fees.

With suppliers set to begin renewing their licenses as early as 2023, it is imperative that the Illinois legislature act now to address this problem with the renewal fees by enacting SB 2973 or

another piece of legislation that includes the same provisions. We are not aware of any opposition to SB 2973, and the Illinois Gaming Board has filed a statement that they do not oppose the bill.

Thank you again for your leadership, and we look forward to working with you to enact SB 2973.

Sincerely,

The iDevelopment and Economic
Association (“iDEA”)



Jeff Ifrah
General Counsel, iDEA Growth