

22104946D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 25

Offered February 11, 2022

Commending Kevin Hall.

Patron—Krizek

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall was appointed executive director of the Virginia Lottery by Governor Ralph Northam on January 15, 2018, and served in that capacity for four years until January 15, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall has greatly served citizens of the Commonwealth in a variety of roles throughout his career, first as a professional journalist and later as a chief spokesman and policy advisor for two Governors and a United States Senator; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall led the Virginia Lottery to achieve historic growth and assume expanded responsibilities by applying his proven leadership skills as a manager, communicator, and legislative and policy advisor; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall led the Virginia Lottery to record-breaking success, nearly doubling its annual sales from \$2.1 billion in fiscal year 2018 to an estimated \$3.8 billion in fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall's efforts resulted in a 40 percent increase in the Virginia Lottery's annual financial support for the Commonwealth's K-12 public schools, with profit transfers into the Lottery Proceeds Fund growing from \$606 million in fiscal year 2018 to an estimated \$844 million in fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall enhanced the Virginia Lottery's core business through the utilization of new technology, including the successful launch of online lottery sales in 2020; the introduction of innovative new gaming products; and strengthened partnerships with the lottery's 5,200 licensed retailers, among other business strategies; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall supported and strengthened responsible gaming programs, maintaining the Virginia Lottery's leadership on these issues by promoting greater public awareness of resources available to address problem gambling and gambling addiction; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall's experience and expertise qualified him to serve as a reliable and trusted resource for members of the General Assembly in discussions on a wide range of policy issues related to the recent and potential future expansion of regulated gaming in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall played a key role in the passage of bipartisan legislation that assigned significant new responsibilities to the Virginia Lottery to oversee legal sports wagering and commercial casino gaming; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall directed the creation of this new regulatory program at the Virginia Lottery without any missteps or delay despite disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, recruiting experienced regulatory staff, launching a secure online licensing portal, and overseeing the creation and implementation of responsible regulations to protect the citizens and the reputation of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Hall successfully managed the launch of licensed, regulated mobile sports wagering in the Commonwealth in January 2021 and has placed the agency on a path to issue the first casino operators license by the summer of 2022; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Kevin Hall hereby be commended for his outstanding service as executive director of the Virginia Lottery, for his leadership in implementing responsible statutory and regulatory oversight of expanded gaming, and for serving as a knowledgeable and trusted resource for all members of the General Assembly in setting policy on gaming issues in the Commonwealth; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Kevin Hall as an expression of the House of Delegates' appreciation and admiration for his contributions to the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED

HR25