

# SENATE BILL 537

C7, J3

71r1777

---

By: **Senators Klausmeier, Colburn, Hooper, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007

Assigned to: Finance

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Gambling Addiction**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission on Gambling Addiction in the  
4 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; providing for the membership,  
5 terms, quorum, and meetings of the Commission; providing Commission  
6 members with reimbursement for expenses under certain circumstances;  
7 specifying that the purpose of the Commission is to study the effects of  
8 individuals who are addicted to gambling, to measure the cost of gambling  
9 addiction, and to propose certain solutions; authorizing the Commission to  
10 consult with certain units of State government and establish certain committees  
11 or task forces; requiring the Commission to develop certain plans and studies,  
12 promote collaboration and coordination with certain programs, and perform  
13 certain other tasks; requiring the Commission to submit a certain report to the  
14 Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the  
15 staggering of the terms of certain members of the Commission; defining a  
16 certain term; and generally relating to the Commission on Gambling Addiction.

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Health – General

19 Section 19–805

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
23 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



**Article - Health - General****19-805.**

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COMMISSION ON GAMBLING ADDICTION.

(B) THERE IS A COMMISSION ON GAMBLING ADDICTION IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF 19 VOTING MEMBERS AND 3 NONVOTING MEMBERS.

(D) THE VOTING MEMBERS ARE:

(1) SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH RELEVANT INTEREST OR EXPERTISE IN THE PROBLEMS POSED BY GAMBLING ADDICTION, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND

(2) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, WHO SHALL SERVE EX OFFICIO:

(I) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(II) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(III) THE SECRETARY OF JUVENILE SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(IV) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(V) THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(VI) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

1                   (VII) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S  
2 OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

3                   (VIII) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S  
4 OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION, OR THE EXECUTIVE  
5 DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

6                   (IX) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND,  
7 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

8                   (X) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,  
9 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

10                  (XI) ONE DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, APPOINTED BY THE  
11 GOVERNOR ON NOMINATION BY THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE MARYLAND COURT  
12 OF APPEALS; AND

13                  (XII) ONE CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, APPOINTED BY THE  
14 GOVERNOR ON NOMINATION BY THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE MARYLAND COURT  
15 OF APPEALS.

16           (E) THE NONVOTING MEMBERS, WHO SHALL SERVE EX OFFICIO, ARE:

17                   (1) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MENTAL HYGIENE ADMINISTRATION;

18                   (2) THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PAROLE AND  
19 PROBATION; AND

20                   (3) THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TREATMENT SERVICES OF  
21 THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.

22           (F) (1) THE TERM OF A MEMBER WHO DOES NOT SERVE EX OFFICIO IS  
23 3 YEARS AND BEGINS ON JULY 1.

24                   (2) THE TERMS OF MEMBERS WHO DO NOT SERVE EX OFFICIO  
25 ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS ON  
26 OCTOBER 1, 2007.

1           **(3) A MEMBER WHO DOES NOT SERVE EX OFFICIO MAY SERVE**  
2 **NOT MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS.**

3           **(4) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE**  
4 **UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**

5           **(5) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN**  
6 **SERVES ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS**  
7 **APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**

8           **(G) THE GOVERNOR MAY REMOVE ANY MEMBER FOR INCOMPETENCE**  
9 **OR NEGLECT.**

10          **(H) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT ONE OF THE MEMBERS TO SERVE**  
11 **AS CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION.**

12          **(I) (1) A MAJORITY OF THE VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**  
13 **IS A QUORUM.**

14          **(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES EACH**  
15 **YEAR.**

16          **(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL SET THE TIMES AND PLACES OF ITS**  
17 **MEETINGS.**

18          **(J) EACH MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES**  
19 **UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE**  
20 **STATE BUDGET.**

21          **(K) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO:**

22               **(1) STUDY THE EFFECTS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SO ADDICTED**  
23 **TO GAMBLING THAT THEIR ADDICTION SERIOUSLY DISRUPTS THEIR LIVES AND**  
24 **THE LIVES OF THEIR FAMILIES;**

25               **(2) MEASURE THE COST OF GAMBLING ADDICTION TO THE**  
26 **TAXPAYERS OF MARYLAND; AND**

1           **(3) PROPOSE SOLUTIONS TO THE THREAT GAMBLING ADDICTION**  
2 **POSES TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE STATE.**

3           **(L) THE COMMISSION MAY:**

4           **(1) CONSULT WITH UNITS OF STATE GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN**  
5 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE; AND**

6           **(2) ESTABLISH COMMITTEES OR TASK FORCES THAT IT**  
7 **CONSIDERS NECESSARY, AND DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS,**  
8 **INCLUDING INTERESTED STATE RESIDENTS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, EDUCATORS,**  
9 **OR SPECIALISTS WITH RELEVANT EXPERTISE TO SERVE ON THEM.**

10          **(M) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

11           **(1) DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED, AND**  
12 **COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO THE USE OF STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES FOR**  
13 **THE PREVENTION OF, INTERVENTION IN, AND TREATMENT OF GAMBLING**  
14 **ADDICTION AMONG THE RESIDENTS OF THE STATE;**

15           **(2) PROMOTE THE COORDINATED PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF**  
16 **STATE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, EVALUATION, AND TREATMENT**  
17 **RESOURCES TO COMBAT GAMBLING ADDICTION;**

18           **(3) PROMOTE COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION BY**  
19 **APPROPRIATE STATE PROGRAMS WITH LOCAL GAMBLING TREATMENT**  
20 **PROGRAMS;**

21           **(4) IDENTIFY, DEVELOP, AND RECOMMEND THE**  
22 **IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT IN**  
23 **PROVIDING PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR**  
24 **GAMBLING ADDICTS;**

25           **(5) PREPARE A STUDY TO MEASURE THE COSTS, BOTH IN HUMAN**  
26 **AND FINANCIAL TERMS, OF GAMBLING ADDICTION IN THE STATE;**

27           **(6) PREPARE A PLAN ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES AND**  
28 **STRATEGIES FOR THE DELIVERY AND FUNDING OF STATE PREVENTION,**  
29 **INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR GAMBLING ADDICTS;**

1           **(7) COORDINATE WITH THE GOVERNOR'S GRANTS OFFICE IN**  
2 **EFFORTS TO SEEK FUNDS FROM ALL APPROPRIATE SOURCES FOR THE**  
3 **PREVENTION OF, INTERVENTION IN, AND TREATMENT OF GAMBLING**  
4 **ADDICTION; AND**

5           **(8) RECEIVE, REVIEW, AND SERVE AS A REPOSITORY FOR**  
6 **STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GAMBLING ADDICTION**  
7 **PROGRAMS AND OTHER RELEVANT MATERIALS AND MAKE THE INFORMATION**  
8 **AVAILABLE TO UNITS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

9           **(N) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2008, AND FOR EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER,**  
10 **THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON ITS PROGRESS TO THE**  
11 **GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE,**  
12 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

13           **(O) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT**  
14 **THIS SECTION.**

15           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the  
16 members of the Commission on October 1, 2007, not serving ex officio end as follows:

17           (1) two on September 30, 2008;

18           (2) two on September 30, 2009; and

19           (3) three on September 30, 2010.

20           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 June 1, 2007.