

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 32  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Luedtke)

Budget and Taxation

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**Amusement Devices - Free-Play Pinball Machines - Use by Minors**

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This bill allows a person who keeps a free-play pinball machine for public use in specified jurisdictions to let a minor operate the free-play pinball machine by removing an existing prohibition.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The Judiciary has no record of this violation ever being charged. Therefore, the bill does not affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. The bill potentially provides a slight benefit to a limited number of small businesses that have free-play pinball machines in specified jurisdictions.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** A free-play pinball machine is a machine that releases one or more balls for play with the insertion of one or more coins or tokens and that awards free games when a player reaches a certain score.

In Baltimore City and Baltimore, Caroline, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties, a person may not keep a free-play pinball machine for public use without a pinball machine license. License and related fees generally range from \$10 to \$40 per machine, depending on the jurisdiction. The pinball machines are prohibited from paying out cash or tokens. Individuals younger than age 18 are prohibited from playing in those jurisdictions.

Except for in Montgomery County, a violation of free-play pinball machine laws is a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum penalty of a \$100 fine. The maximum penalty in Montgomery County is a \$500 fine per violation.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Dorchester, Garrett, and Montgomery counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 11, 2017  
fn/mcr Third Reader - February 7, 2017

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