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**By: Delegate C. Davis**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 1996

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Advisory Commission on Gambling Addiction**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a State Advisory Commission on GamblingAddiction;  
4 requiring the Commission to advise the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
5 on certain matters and to make a certain report; establishing the membership,  
6 duties, and terms of the Commission; providing for the funding of the Commission  
7 from certain unclaimed State Lottery prize money; and generally relating to a State  
8 Advisory Commission on Gambling Addiction.

9 BY adding to

10 Article - Health - General  
11 Section 19-805  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

14 Preamble

15 WHEREAS, Individuals who suffer from gambling addiction need appropriate  
16 treatment and assistance to enable them to overcome the addictive behavior; and

17 WHEREAS, Habitual gambling causes serious losses to the victim and to the  
18 victim's family; and

19 WHEREAS, The problem of gambling addiction is on the rise in Maryland and it  
20 is estimated that 1.5% of the adult population, or about 50,000 people,are addicted  
21 gamblers; and

22 WHEREAS, Solutions to the present rise in gambling addiction have not kept  
23 pace with the increased availability of legalized gambling or the increased legitimizing of  
24 previously illegal forms of gambling and their subsequent promotion; and

25 WHEREAS, Gambling addiction is the most expensive addiction per addict,  
26 costing Maryland citizens approximately \$1.5 billion annually; now, therefore,

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

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1           **Article - Health - General**

2 19-805.

3           (A) IN THIS SECTION, "COMMISSION" MEANS THE STATE ADVISORY  
4 COMMISSION ON GAMBLING ADDICTION.

5           (B) THERE IS A STATE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON GAMBLING ADDICTION.

6           (C) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF 11 MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

7                   (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, DESIGNATED BY THE  
8 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

9                   (2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF MARYLAND,  
10 DESIGNATED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE; AND

11                  (3) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

12                           (I) TWO HEALTH PRACTITIONERS WHO TREAT ADDICTIONS;

13                           (II) TWO COUNSELORS WHO ASSIST HABITUAL GAMBLERS;

14                           (III) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY  
15 GENERAL OF MARYLAND;

16                           (IV) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH STATE GAMBLING  
17 COMPONENT, INCLUDING THE RACING INDUSTRY AND THE STATE LOTTERY; AND

18                           (V) THREE MEMBERS FROM THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

19           (D) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIRMAN ANNUALLY FROM  
20 AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

21                   (2) EACH MEMBER SERVES FOR A TERM OF 3 YEARS.

22                   (3) THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY  
23 THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS APPOINTED ON OCTOBER 1, 1996.

24           (E) EACH MEMBER SHALL BE:

25                   (1) COMPENSATED FROM THE REVENUE SOURCE PROVIDED UNDER  
26 THIS SECTION AT THE RATE OF \$50 PER MEETING DAY; AND

27                   (2) ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES UNDER  
28 THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS.

29           (F) THE COMMISSION SHALL BE FUNDED WITH REVENUE FROM 10% OF THE  
30 UNCLAIMED STATE LOTTERY PRIZE MONEY.

31           (G) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

32                   (1) ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE ON  
33 THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF HABITUAL GAMBLING;

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1                   (2) COMPILE DATA AND STATISTICS ON THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF  
2 PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING;

3                   (3) RECOMMEND THE TYPE OF TREATMENT PROGRAMS TO BE  
4 PROVIDED FOR HABITUAL GAMBLERS AND THE METHOD FOR DELIVERY OF  
5 GAMBLING PREVENTION EDUCATION AND SERVICES;

6                   (4) REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS AT LEAST  
7 ANNUALLY TO THE SECRETARY; AND

8                   (5) DEVELOP ANY PROGRAMS THAT THE SECRETARY CONSIDERS  
9 NECESSARY TO PREVENT GAMBLING ADDICTION.

10           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial  
11 members of the State Advisory Commission on Gambling Addiction shall expire as  
12 follows:

13                   (1) four members in 1999;

14                   (2) four members in 1998; and

15                   (3) three members in 1997.

16           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 1996.