
By: Delegate D. Hughes (By Request)

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Dorchester County - Cambridge Redevelopment Act**

3 FOR the purpose of enabling the Board of County Commissioners for Dorchester County
4 to authorize the construction of a hotel, marina, and conference center with a
5 certain maximum number of slot machines on the shores of the Choptank River
6 within the City of Cambridge; requiring that the construction project be worth a
7 certain amount of money, provide a certain number of jobs, house a marina with a
8 certain number of slips, and be built in accordance with the prevailing wage law for
9 the City of Cambridge; requiring that a certain number of jobs be held by members
10 of minority groups; imposing a gross receipt tax on slot machines and providing for
11 the allocation of the tax; requiring that slot machine patrons pay a certain admission
12 fee and requiring that money collected in admission fees be given to the Gaming
13 Foundation Board for a certain purpose; enabling the Board of County
14 Commissioners for Dorchester County to submit this Act to a referendum of the
15 legally qualified voters of Dorchester County at a special election to be held on a
16 date that the Board determines; and generally relating to the construction of a
17 hotel, marina, and conference center with slot machines in Dorchester County.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
20 Section 264B I.
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (1996 Replacement Volume)

23 BY adding to
24 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
25 Section 264B VIII.
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (1996 Replacement Volume)

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

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1 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

2 264B.

3 Any machine, apparatus or device is a slot machine within the provisions of this
4 section if it is one that is adapted for use in such a way that, as a result of the insertion or
5 deposit therein, or placing with another person of any piece of money, coin, token or
6 other object, such machine, apparatus or device is caused to operate or may be operated,
7 and by reason of any element of chance or of other outcome of such operation
8 unpredictable by him, the user may receive or become entitled to receive any piece of
9 money, coin, token or other object representative of and convertible into money,
10 irrespective of whether the said machine, apparatus or device may, apart from any
11 element of chance or unpredictable outcome of such operation, also sell, deliver or
12 present some merchandise or money or other tangible thing of value.

13 I. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to locate, possess,
14 keep, maintain or operate any slot machine within this State, whether as owner, lessor,
15 lessee, licensor, licensee, or otherwise, except as provided in paragraphs II, VI, [and]
16 VII, AND VIII of this section.

17 VIII. (A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, IN
18 DORCHESTER COUNTY, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR
19 DORCHESTER COUNTY MAY AUTHORIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HOTEL,
20 MARINA, AND CONFERENCE CENTER WITH A MAXIMUM OF 1,000 SLOT MACHINES ON
21 THE SHORES OF THE CHOPTANK RIVER WITHIN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

22 (B) THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SHALL:

23 (1) BE WORTH AT LEAST \$100 MILLION IN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN
24 CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER COSTS;

25 (2) PROVIDE AT LEAST THE EQUIVALENT OF 1,100 FULL-TIME JOBS,
26 WITH PREFERENCES TO BE GIVEN TO RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE AND
27 OTHER AREAS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY;

28 (3) HOUSE A MARINA WITH AT LEAST 200 SLIPS; AND

29 (4) BE BUILT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PREVAILING WAGE LAW FOR
30 THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

31 (C) AT LEAST 50% OF THE JOBS SHALL BE HELD BY MEMBERS OF MINORITY
32 GROUPS AND AT LEAST 20% OF THE WORK OF THE PROJECT SHALL BE CONTRACTED
33 OUT TO MINORITY FIRMS, WITH PREFERENCE GIVEN TO BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF
34 CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER COUNTY, AND THE STATE.

35 (D) FROM THAT PART OF THE PROCEEDS FROM SLOT MACHINES THAT IS NOT
36 RETURNED TO SUCCESSFUL PLAYERS, AN ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION THAT
37 OPERATES SLOT MACHINES UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH SHALL PAY A GROSS
38 RECEIPT TAX OF 15%, WHICH SHALL BE ALLOCATED IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

39 (1) 8.5% TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE;

40 (2) 3% TO DORCHESTER COUNTY;

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1 (3) 3% TO THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE; AND

2 (4) 0.5% TO PROGRAMS THAT TREAT COMPULSIVE GAMBLING.

3 (E) (1) EACH SLOT MACHINE PATRON SHALL PAY AN ADMISSION FEE OF \$1.

4 (2) THE MONEY COLLECTED IN ADMISSION FEES SHALL BE GIVEN TO
5 THE GAMING FOUNDATION BOARD TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE CITY OF
6 CAMBRIDGE.

7 (3) THE GAMING FOUNDATION BOARD MAY USE THE MONEY AT ITS
8 DISCRETION TO FUND CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS.

9 (F) THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY
10 MAY ORDER THAT BEFORE THIS ACT BECOMES LEGALLY EFFECTIVE IT SHALL FIRST
11 BE SUBMITTED TO A REFERENDUM OF THE LEGALLY QUALIFIED VOTERS OF
12 DORCHESTER COUNTY AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON A DATE THAT THE
13 BOARD DETERMINES.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 1997.