

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chairman, Economic Matters Committee (Departmental - Comptroller)**

Requested: November 15, 1999

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2000

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Comptroller - Cigarette Dealers - Inspections**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Comptroller to conduct certain inspections under
4 certain circumstances where cigarettes are stored under a license or permit
5 issued by the Comptroller; providing that evidence discovered during
6 inspections is admissible for certain purposes; providing for certain penalties;
7 and generally relating to inspections of cigarettes by the Comptroller.

8 BY adding to
9 Article - Business Regulation
10 Section 16-223
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Business Regulation**

16 16-223.

17 (A) (1) THE COMPTROLLER MAY, WITHOUT WARRANT AND AT ALL HOURS,
18 INSPECT AND SEARCH ANY BUILDING, VEHICLE, AND PREMISES IN WHICH ANY
19 CIGARETTES ARE AUTHORIZED TO BE KEPT, TRANSPORTED, OR SOLD UNDER A
20 LICENSE OR PERMIT ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE.

21 (2) ANY EVIDENCE DISCOVERED DURING AN INSPECTION AUTHORIZED
22 UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE ADMISSIBLE IN A PROSECUTION FOR THE
23 VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE OR ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW.

24 (B) A PERSON WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
25 SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE
26 NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 2 YEARS OR BOTH.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
2 effect July 1, 2000.