
By: **Senator Astle**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2004

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Compulsive Gambling - Prevalence Study and Replication Prevalence**
3 **Studies**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct
5 a prevalence study and replication prevalence studies to measure the rate of
6 problem and pathological gambling in Maryland; requiring the Secretary to
7 contract with an independent researcher to conduct the prevalence studies,
8 subject to the Secretary utilizing the most current psychiatric or diagnostic
9 criteria for problem and pathological gambling; requiring the initial prevalence
10 study to be completed on or before a certain date; requiring that the replication
11 studies be completed within a certain number of years with measures taken to
12 permit comparisons between the initial prevalence study and subsequent
13 replication prevalence studies; and generally relating to compulsive gambling
14 and prevalence studies.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
16 Article - Health - General
17 Section 19-801 through 19-803
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Article - Health - General
22 Section 19-804
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

1 **Article - Health - General**

2 19-801.

3 In this subtitle, "compulsive gambler" means an individual:

4 (1) Who is preoccupied chronically and progressively with gambling and
5 the urge to gamble; and

6 (2) Whose gambling behavior compromises, disrupts, or damages the
7 individual's personal, family, or vocational pursuits.

8 19-802.

9 The General Assembly finds that:

10 (1) Compulsive gambling is a serious social problem;

11 (2) There is evidence that the availability of gambling increases the risk
12 of becoming a compulsive gambler; and

13 (3) This State, with its extensive legalized gambling, has an obligation to
14 provide a program of treatment for compulsive gamblers.

15 19-803.

16 As a pilot project, the Secretary shall establish a center for compulsive gamblers
17 at a place that the Secretary determines to be accessible to a major population center
18 of this State.

19 19-804.

20 (a) (1) The Secretary may make grants from or agreements for the use of
21 State and federal funds to help public agencies or nonprofit organizations operate the
22 center for compulsive gamblers and establish and operate local programs to provide
23 the following for compulsive gamblers:

24 (i) Inpatient services.

25 (ii) Outpatient services.

26 (iii) Partial care services.

27 (iv) Aftercare services.

28 (v) Consultative services.

29 (vi) Educational services.

30 (vii) Other preventive or rehabilitative services or treatment.

1 (2) Research and training that are designed to improve or extend these
2 services are proper items of expense.

3 (B) THE SECRETARY SHALL CONDUCT A PREVALENCE STUDY AND
4 REPLICATION PREVALENCE STUDIES TO MEASURE THE RATE OF PROBLEM AND
5 PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING IN MARYLAND.

6 (C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SECRETARY
7 SHALL CONTRACT WITH AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER TO CONDUCT THE
8 PREVALENCE STUDIES.

9 (2) THE SECRETARY SHALL UTILIZE THE MOST CURRENT PSYCHIATRIC
10 OR DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR PROBLEM AND PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING AS THE
11 BASIS FOR THE PREVALENCE STUDIES.

12 (D) THE INITIAL PREVALENCE STUDY SHALL BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE
13 SEPTEMBER 30, 2005.

14 (E) REPLICATION PREVALENCE STUDIES SHALL BE CONDUCTED NO LESS
15 THAN EVERY 5 YEARS WITH MEASURES TAKEN TO PERMIT COMPARISONS BETWEEN
16 THE INITIAL PREVALENCE STUDY AND SUBSEQUENT REPLICATION PREVALENCE
17 STUDIES.

18 [(b)] (F) Services under this subtitle shall be provided by public agencies or,
19 under contract, by nonprofit organizations.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2004.