

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 496 (Senator Dyson)  
Budget and Taxation

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**Public Health - Compulsive Gambling Treatment Program**

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This emergency bill creates a Compulsive Gambling Treatment Program and provides for a one-time grant of \$200,000 to the Compulsive Gambling Center, Inc. of Baltimore City for the residential and outpatient treatment of compulsive gamblers and their families.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$200,000 in FY 2005 if included in a supplemental budget for FY 2005. If it is not included, then the \$200,000 grant is a mandated appropriation in FY 2006.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill creates a compulsive gambling treatment program in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) for the purpose of providing initial assistance and treatment for compulsive gamblers and their families. The bill requires DHMH to provide a one-time grant of \$200,000 to the Compulsive Gambling Center, Inc. of Baltimore City for the residential and outpatient treatment of compulsive gamblers and their families. Upon receipt of the funds, the Compulsive Gambling Center is required to: (1) provide residential and outpatient treatment services to compulsive gamblers and their families; (2) work with DHMH to develop any other necessary components of the program; and (3) submit financial records and program outcome reports to DHMH.

**Current Law:** DHMH has the statutory authority to have a compulsive gambling program. DHMH is authorized to make grants to public agencies or nonprofit organizations to provide treatment for compulsive gamblers, establish preventative programs, or conduct research and training that is designed to improve compulsive gambling treatment methods.

**Background:** Although DHMH has the statutory authority to have a compulsive gambling program, the program is not currently funded. Within the last few sessions, several bills have proposed authorizing VLT gambling in the State. These bills have typically established a compulsive gambling fund in order to fund compulsive gambling treatment programs. This bill creates an additional compulsive gambling treatment program and provides for a one-time \$200,000 allocation to the Compulsive Gambling Center, Inc. of Baltimore City for the treatment of compulsive gamblers and their families. The bill, however, is not contingent on the enactment of any other bill.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase by \$200,000 in fiscal 2005 if included in a fiscal 2005 supplemental budget. If it is not included, then the \$200,000 grant is a mandated appropriation in fiscal 2006. The administrative costs at DHMH associated with the provisions of this bill could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2004  
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