
By: **Delegates McComas, Aumann, Bronrott, Cadden, Conroy, Cryor, DeBoy, Dumais, Dwyer, Eckardt, Edwards, Elliott, Feldman, Gilleland, Glassman, Haddaway, Impallaria, Kohl, Krebs, Mayer, McDonough, McMillan, Menes, Myers, Petzold, Shank, Shewell, Stocksdale, Walkup, and Weldon**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006
Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Alcohol Without Liquid Machines**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the use of Alcohol Without Liquid (AWOL) machines
4 to inhale alcohol vapor or otherwise introduce alcohol in any form into the
5 human body; prohibiting the purchase or sale of Alcohol Without Liquid
6 machines; providing a certain penalty; defining a certain term; and generally
7 relating to Alcohol Without Liquid machines.

8 BY adding to
9 Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages
10 Section 16-505.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2005 Replacement Volume)

13 **Preamble**

14 WHEREAS, An Alcohol Without Liquid (AWOL) machine is a device that mixes
15 spirits with pure oxygen, creating a cloudy alcohol vapor that can be inhaled; and

16 WHEREAS, An AWOL machine allows people to inhale or "snort" drinks such as
17 vodka and absinthe through a tube into the nose or mouth, enabling alcohol vapor to
18 bypass the stomach and liver and to be absorbed through blood vessels in the nose or
19 lungs, thereby creating a quicker and more intense effect on the brain than drinking;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that the popularity of AWOL machines
22 is increasing throughout the country, spurred by the claim that the machines provide
23 a person a way to get intoxicated without a hangover and without gaining weight
24 because there are no calories to be derived from inhaling alcohol vapor; and

1 WHEREAS, Experts have asserted that the practice of inhaling alcohol vapor is
2 linked to brain damage; and

3 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that by eighth grade, nearly 50% of adolescents
4 have had at least one drink and more than 20% report having been drunk; and

5 WHEREAS, The economic costs of alcohol abuse in the United States total in the
6 billions of dollars; and

7 WHEREAS, Alcohol-related accidents are more likely to kill young people than
8 all illegal drugs combined; now, therefore,

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

11 **Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages**

12 16-505.1.

13 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "AWOL MACHINE" MEANS AN ALCOHOL WITHOUT
14 LIQUID DEVICE THAT MIXES SPIRITS WITH PURE OXYGEN TO PRODUCE A CLOUDY
15 ALCOHOL VAPOR THAT CAN BE INHALED.

16 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT:

17 (1) USE AN AWOL MACHINE TO INHALE ALCOHOL VAPOR OR OTHERWISE
18 INTRODUCE ALCOHOL IN ANY FORM INTO THE HUMAN BODY; OR

19 (2) PURCHASE, TRANSFER, OR OFFER FOR SALE AN AWOL MACHINE.

20 (C) (1) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A
21 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000.

22 (2) EACH VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2006.