
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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 19, 2006

CHAPTER _____

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~~ possession, purchase, transfer, or
6 offering for sale or use of Alcohol Without Liquid machines; providing a certain
7 penalty; defining a certain term; and generally relating to Alcohol Without
8 Liquid machines.

9 BY adding to
10 Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages
11 Section 16-505.1
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2005 Replacement Volume)

14 **Preamble**

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

17 ~~WHEREAS, An AWOL machine allows people to inhale or "snort" drinks such as~~
18 ~~vodka and absinthe through a tube into the nose or mouth, enabling alcohol vapor to~~
19 ~~bypass the stomach and liver and to be absorbed through blood vessels in the nose or~~

1 lungs, thereby creating a quicker and more intense effect on the brain than drinking;
2 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 **Article 2B - Alcoholic Beverages**

18 16-505.1.

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

22 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT:

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

25 (2) POSSESS, PURCHASE, TRANSFER, OR OFFER FOR SALE OR USE AN
26 AWOL MACHINE.

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

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

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

