
By: **Delegate Nathan-Pulliam**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Slot Machines and Other Video Gaming Devices - Cash Payouts - Notice and**
3 **Penalties**

4 FOR the purpose of making knowledge an element of the criminal offense of locating,
5 possessing, keeping, or operating a slot machine in the State; making it a
6 misdemeanor for a person to sell, lease, lend, or otherwise transfer a slot
7 machine or other video gaming device unless the person meets certain
8 requirements; requiring the person to inform the operator of a certain
9 establishment by written notice that cash payouts may not be awarded to
10 players; specifying the form of the notice; requiring that the notice be approved
11 by a certain authority; requiring a certain person to have installed at the
12 person's expense a certain sign above each video gaming device; specifying the
13 contents and typeface of the sign; providing certain penalties; and generally
14 relating to slot machines and other video gaming devices.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article - Criminal Law
17 Section 12-302
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2002 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

20 BY adding to
21 Article - Criminal Law
22 Section 12-302.1
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2002 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

1

Article - Criminal Law

2 12-302.

3 (a) Except as allowed under §§ 12-304 through 12-306 of this subtitle, a
4 person may not KNOWINGLY locate, possess, keep, or operate a slot machine in the
5 State as an owner, lessor, lessee, licensor, licensee, or in any other capacity.

6 (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
7 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine of \$1,000 or both
8 for each violation.

9 12-302.1.

10 (A) A PERSON MAY NOT SELL, LEASE, LEND, OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER A SLOT
11 MACHINE OR OTHER VIDEO GAMING DEVICE THAT IS INSTALLED IN A BAR,
12 RESTAURANT, GAS STATION, OR OTHER ESTABLISHMENT UNLESS THE PERSON
13 MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

14 (B) (1) BY WRITTEN NOTICE, THE PERSON SHALL INFORM THE OPERATOR
15 OF THE ESTABLISHMENT WHERE THE VIDEO GAMING DEVICE IS TO BE INSTALLED
16 THAT A CASH PAYOUT MAY NOT BE AWARDED TO A PLAYER OF A VIDEO GAMING
17 DEVICE BY ANY MEANS, INCLUDING:

18 (I) THE VIDEO GAMING DEVICE; AND

19 (II) AN INDIVIDUAL IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

20 (2) THE NOTICE SHALL BE:

21 (I) WRITTEN IN CLEAR AND SIMPLE LANGUAGE IN AT LEAST 18
22 POINT BOLDFACE TYPE; AND

23 (II) APPROVED AS NOT BEING DECEPTIVE OR MISLEADING BY THE
24 AUTHORITY THAT ISSUES LICENSES FOR AMUSEMENT DEVICES IN THE COUNTY
25 WHERE THE VIDEO GAMING DEVICE IS INSTALLED.

26 (C) (1) THE PERSON SHALL HAVE INSTALLED AT THE PERSON'S EXPENSE A
27 SIGN THAT READS, "FOR AMUSEMENT ONLY -- NO CASH PAYOUTS ALLOWED".

28 (2) THE SIGN SHALL BE INSTALLED BETWEEN 2 AND 3 FEET ABOVE
29 EACH VIDEO GAMING DEVICE.

30 (3) THE WORDS ON THE SIGN SHALL BE WRITTEN IN BLOCK LETTERS AT
31 LEAST 4 INCHES HIGH.

32 (D) (1) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A
33 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO:

34 (I) ON A FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000; AND

1 (II) ON A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE NOT
2 EXCEEDING \$10,000.

3 (2) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTY, A PERSON WHO VIOLATES
4 THIS SECTION IS INELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE VIOLATION
5 OCCURRED A LICENSE FOR AN AMUSEMENT DEVICE FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING
6 5 YEARS AFTER THE DATE OF THE VIOLATION.

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