
By: **Senators Klausmeier, Colburn, Hooper, Lawlah, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2006

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts - Gambling Treatment Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of stating the intent of the General Assembly that offenders whose
4 crimes are associated with chronic and compulsive gambling be treated in a
5 particular manner in the judicial system, that the Chief Judge of the Court of
6 Appeals establish a system of gambling treatment programs in the circuit courts
7 and the District Court, and that gambling treatment programs use specialized
8 dockets to divert offenders into an integrated system that provides them with
9 certain services; requiring the Chief Judge, with the assistance of certain
10 persons, to conduct a certain study and issue a certain report by a certain date;
11 specifying that the report include certain findings; and generally relating to the
12 establishment of a system of gambling treatment programs in the circuit courts
13 and the District Court.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that:

16 (1) offenders whose crimes are associated with chronic and compulsive
17 gambling be dealt with efficiently and effectively in the judicial system;

18 (2) to handle cases that traditional legal and adjudicatory processes
19 cannot accommodate in the most efficient and effective manner, the Chief Judge of
20 the Court of Appeals use judiciary resources to establish a system of gambling
21 treatment programs in the circuit courts and the District Court; and

22 (3) gambling treatment programs use specialized dockets to divert
23 nonviolent individuals who commit crimes to support their habits into an integrated
24 system that provides offenders:

25 (i) intensive treatment, case supervision, and testing under the
26 close supervision of the court; and

27 (ii) strict and immediate accountability for their behavior through a
28 variety of incentives and sanctions.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Chief Judge of the
2 Court of Appeals, with the assistance of the Court's Standing Committee on Rules of
3 Practice and Procedure, the Conference of Circuit Judges, appropriate members of the
4 Maryland State Bar Association, and members of the Senate of Maryland and the
5 House of Delegates, shall study how an implementation plan for the establishment of
6 a system of gambling treatment programs in circuit courts and the District Court may
7 be established and shall report his findings to the Governor and, in accordance with §
8 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December
9 1, 2007. The findings shall include consideration of all operational components and
10 aspects of a system of gambling treatment programs, including:

11 (1) the costs associated with and essential to the efficient operation of
12 the system;

13 (2) the process for identifying and estimating the size of the population
14 to be served by the system;

15 (3) a plan, including eligibility criteria, for screening potential
16 participants;

17 (4) a list of incentives and sanctions that may be used to develop a
18 participant's sense of accountability and to encourage compliance with the gambling
19 treatment program; and

20 (5) guidelines for other components of the system, including judicial and
21 community supervision, gambling abuse treatment services, management
22 information systems, testing and monitoring of participants, graduation and
23 termination procedures, and review and evaluation standards.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2006.