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

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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts—Gambling Treatment Programs**
3 **Task Force to Study Gambling Treatment Programs in Circuit Courts and**
4 **the District Court**

5 FOR the purpose of creating a Task Force to Study Gambling Treatment Programs in
6 Circuit Courts and the District Court; stating the intent of the General
7 Assembly that offenders whose crimes are associated with chronic and
8 compulsive gambling be treated in a particular manner in the judicial system,
9 that the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals establish a system of gambling
10 treatment programs in the circuit courts and the District Court, and that
11 gambling treatment programs use specialized dockets to divert offenders into an
12 integrated system that provides them with certain services; providing for the
13 membership, chair, and staff of the Task Force; providing for reimbursement of
14 expenses of Task Force members; requiring the Chief Judge, with the assistance
15 of certain persons, Task Force to conduct a certain study and issue a certain
16 report by a certain date; specifying that the report ~~include certain findings~~
17 contain certain information; providing for the termination of this Act; and
18 generally relating to the ~~establishment of study of how~~ a system of gambling
19 treatment programs may be established in the circuit courts and the District
20 Court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, ~~That the Chief Judge of the~~
 13 ~~Court of Appeals, with the assistance of the Court's Standing Committee on Rules of~~
 14 ~~Practice and Procedure, the Conference of Circuit Judges, appropriate members of the~~
 15 ~~Maryland State Bar Association, and members of the Senate of Maryland and the~~
 16 ~~House of Delegates, shall study how an implementation plan for the establishment of~~
 17 ~~a system of gambling treatment programs in circuit courts and the District Court may~~
 18 ~~be established and shall report his findings to the Governor and, in accordance with §~~
 19 ~~2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December~~
 20 ~~1, 2007. The findings shall include consideration of all operational components and~~
 21 ~~aspects of a system of gambling treatment programs That:~~

22 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Gambling Treatment Programs in Circuit
 23 Courts and the District Court.

24 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

25 (1) the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals or the designee of the Chief
 26 Judge;

27 (2) two members of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and
 28 Procedure of the Court of Appeals, appointed by the Chief Judge;

29 (3) two members of the Conference of Circuit Judges or the members'
 30 designees, appointed by the Chief Judge;

31 (4) three members of the Maryland State Bar Association, appointed by
 32 the Governor;

33 (5) one member of the general public who specializes in the treatment of
 34 gambling addiction through research, education, crisis intervention, residential
 35 programs, and support services, appointed by the Governor;

36 (6) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
 37 the Senate; and

1 (7) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
2 the House.

3 (c) The Chief Judge or the designee of the Chief Judge shall serve as chair of
4 the Task Force.

5 (d) The Task Force shall study how a system of gambling treatment programs
6 may be established in circuit courts and the District Court, taking into account all
7 operational components and aspects of such a system, including:

8 (1) the costs associated with and essential to the efficient operation of
9 the system;

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

12 (3) a plan, including eligibility criteria, for screening potential
13 participants;

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

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

21 (e) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Task
22 Force.

23 (f) A member of the Task Force:

24 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

25 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
26 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

27 (g) On or before December 1, 2007, the Task Force shall report its findings and
28 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
29 Government Article, the General Assembly.

30 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 October 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at
32 the end of December 31, 2007, with no further action required by the General
33 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

