

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 82

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Ways and Means

Budget and Taxation

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Montgomery County - Free-Play Pinball Machines - Placement Restrictions -  
Repeal  
MC 2-15

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This bill repeals a provision of law that prohibits, in Montgomery County, more than two free-play pinball machines that are not in locked storage and are available for public use from being kept on the same floor of a building.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill applies only to Montgomery County.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill should not have a material effect on the number of pinball licenses issued in Montgomery County.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** A free-play pinball machine is a machine that releases one or more balls for play with the insertion of one or more coins or tokens and that awards free games when a player reaches a certain score. Chapter 741 of 1963 made it illegal, in Montgomery County, to keep more than two free-play pinball machines that are not in locked storage and are available for public use from being kept on the same floor of a building.

In Baltimore City and Baltimore, Caroline, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties, a person may not keep a free-play pinball machine for public use without a pinball machine license. License and related fees generally range

from \$10 to \$40 per machine, depending on the jurisdiction. The pinball machines are prohibited from paying out cash or tokens. Individuals younger than 18 are also prohibited from playing. Free-play pinball machines are prohibited in Wicomico County.

Except for in Montgomery County, a violation of free-play pinball machine laws is a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum penalty of a \$100 fine. The maximum penalty in Montgomery County is a \$500 fine per violation.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 2015  
mar/mcr

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