

SENATE BILL 445

C7

6lr1573

By: **Senator Astle**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2016

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Gaming – Penny–Ante Games

FOR the purpose of authorizing a person to conduct a certain penny–ante game in which the winnings of any player in a single round, hand, or game do not exceed a certain value under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally relating to gaming.

BY adding to

Article – Criminal Law

Section 12–115

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Criminal Law

12–115.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) (I) “DWELLING” MEANS RESIDENTIAL PREMISES OWNED OR RENTED AND OCCUPIED BY AN INDIVIDUAL.

(II) “DWELLING” INCLUDES:

1. THE COMMON AREAS OF A CONDOMINIUM, COOPERATIVE, RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION, OR MOBILE HOME PARK; AND

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



2. A COLLEGE DORMITORY ROOM OR THE COMMON AREA OF A COLLEGE DORMITORY OR A COMMUNITY CENTER OWNED BY A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OR COUNTY.

(3) “PENNY-ANTE GAME” MEANS A GAME OR SERIES OF GAMES OF POKER, PINOCHLE, BRIDGE, RUMMY, CANASTA, HEARTS, DOMINOES, OR MAH-JONGG IN WHICH THE WINNINGS OF ANY PLAYER IN A SINGLE ROUND, HAND, OR GAME DO NOT EXCEED \$20 IN VALUE.

(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY CONDUCT A PENNY-ANTE GAME THAT:

(1) IS CONDUCTED IN A DWELLING;

(2) DOES NOT ALLOW PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18;

(3) DOES NOT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CHARGE ADMISSION OR ANY OTHER FEE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE GAME;

(4) ALLOWS A PLAYER TO COMPETE DIRECTLY AGAINST ONE OR MORE OTHER PLAYERS;

(5) DOES NOT INVOLVE A PLAYER’S USE OF AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE THAT CONNECTS TO THE INTERNET;

(6) DOES NOT SOLICIT PARTICIPANTS BY MEANS OF ADVERTISING IN ANY FORM; AND

(7) DOES NOT ALLOW A PERSON TO BENEFIT FINANCIALLY IN ANY WAY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, OTHER THAN FROM THE WINNINGS ACCRUED BY PARTICIPATING AS A PLAYER IN THE GAME.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.