

Chapter 663

(House Bill 1288)

AN ACT concerning

**Video Lottery Employee Licenses – Crimes of Moral Turpitude ~~or Gambling~~
Offenses – Alterations**

FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances under which the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission is required to disqualify an applicant who committed a certain crime involving moral turpitude ~~or gambling~~ from holding a video lottery employee license; and generally relating to the licensure of video lottery employees.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – State Government
 Section 9–1A–14(a)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – State Government
 Section 9–1A–14(c)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

Article – State Government

9–1A–14.

(a) Unless an individual holds a valid video lottery employee license or temporary video lottery employee license issued by the Commission, the individual may not be employed by a video lottery operation licensee as a video lottery employee.

(c) **(1)** The Commission shall deny a video lottery employee license to an applicant who is disqualified due to:

[(1)] (I) the applicant’s failure to prove the applicant’s good character, honesty, and integrity;

[(2)] (II) the applicant’s lack of expertise or training to be a video lottery employee;

[(3)] (III) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, the applicant's conviction, active parole, or probation for any crime involving moral turpitude or gambling under the laws of the United States or any state within the prior 7 years;

[(4)] (IV) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, the applicant's current prosecution for any crime involving moral turpitude or gambling under the laws of the United States or any state, but, at the request of the applicant, the Commission may defer a decision on the application during the pendency of the charge;

[(5)] (V) pursuit by the applicant of economic gain in an occupational manner or context that is in violation of the laws of the State, if the pursuit creates a reasonable belief that participation of the applicant in video lottery operations would be inimical to the policies of this subtitle;

[(6)] (VI) identification of the applicant as a career offender or a member of a career offender cartel or an associate of a career offender or career offender cartel in a manner that creates a reasonable belief that the association is of a nature as to be inimical to the policies of this subtitle;

[(7)] (VII) willful defiance by the applicant or a person that is required to be qualified under this subtitle as a condition of a license of a legislative investigatory body or other official investigatory body of the United States or a jurisdiction within the United States when the body is engaged in the investigation of crimes relating to gambling, official corruption, or organized crime activity; and

[(8)] (VIII) any other reason established in the regulations of the Commission as a reason for denying a license.

(2) (I) IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "PROBLEM-SOLVING COURT" MEANS A PROBLEM-SOLVING COURT UNDER THE OFFICE OF PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS, OR A COMPARABLE PROGRAM FROM ANOTHER STATE COURT SYSTEM, THAT PROVIDES A COLLABORATIVE, THERAPEUTIC, NONADVERSARIAL APPROACH TO JUDICIAL SUPERVISION OF ELIGIBLE OFFENDERS, INCLUDING A DRUG COURT, DUI COURT, VETERANS' COURT, MENTAL HEALTH COURT, OR REENTRY COURT.

(II) AN APPLICANT IS NOT DISQUALIFIED FROM LICENSURE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(III) OR (IV) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF THE CONVICTION, ACTIVE PAROLE, PROBATION, OR PROSECUTION INVOLVES A NONVIOLENT ~~CRIME~~ MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE, OTHER THAN A CRIME INVOLVING GAMBLING, FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT PARTICIPATED IN AND COMPLETED A PROBLEM-SOLVING COURT PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2023.