

HOUSE BILL 484

C7

5r1610
CF 5r2723

By: **Delegate Ebersole**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fantasy Competitions – Alterations and Voluntary Exclusion Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “fantasy competition” for purposes of
4 provisions of law governing fantasy competitions to include certain competitions;
5 requiring the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to establish a certain
6 voluntary exclusion program; prohibiting a fantasy competition operator from
7 permitting an individual on the mandatory exclusion list to establish a fantasy
8 competition account or participate in fantasy competitions; prohibiting a fantasy
9 competition operator from paying a prize or an award to certain excluded individuals;
10 altering the definitions of “sporting event” and “sports wagering” for purposes of
11 provisions of law governing the conduct of sports wagering; and generally relating to
12 fantasy competitions and sports wagering.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – State Government
15 Section 9–1D–01(a), (c), (e), and (f) and 9–1E–01(a)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – State Government
20 Section 9–1D–01(d), 9–1D–02, 9–1D–05, and 9–1E–01(i) and (j)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 BY adding to
24 Article – State Government
25 Section 9–1D–05
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – State Government**

4 9–1D–01.

5 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (c) “Entry fee” means cash or cash equivalents that a fantasy competition player
7 is required to pay to a fantasy competition operator in order to participate in a fantasy
8 competition.

9 (d) “Fantasy competition” includes any online fantasy or simulated game or
10 contest such as fantasy sports, in which:

11 (1) participants own, manage, or coach AN imaginary **TEAM OR** teams;

12 (2) all prizes and awards offered to winning participants are established
13 and made known to participants in advance of the game or contest;

14 **(3) (I) A PARTICIPANT COMPETES AGAINST OTHER PARTICIPANTS;**
15 **OR**

16 **(II) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, A SINGLE**
17 **PARTICIPANT COMPETES AGAINST A STATISTICAL MEASUREMENT ESTABLISHED BY**
18 **THE FANTASY COMPETITION OPERATOR;**

19 **[(3)] (4)** the winning outcome of the game or contest reflects the relative
20 skill of the participants and is determined by statistics generated by actual individuals
21 (players or teams in the case of a professional sport); and

22 **[(4)] (5)** no winning outcome is based:

23 (i) solely on the performance of an individual athlete; or

24 (ii) on the score, point spread, or any performances of any single
25 real–world team or any combination of real–world teams.

26 (e) (1) “Fantasy competition operator” means any person that offers services
27 in connection with fantasy competitions to individuals by means of:

28 (i) the Internet;

29 (ii) a smart phone application; or

1 (iii) any other electronics, digital media, communication technology,
2 or device.

3 (2) “Fantasy competition operator” includes, for purposes of the federal
4 Bank Secrecy Act of 1970 and its related regulations, a gaming establishment having at
5 least \$1,000,000 in annual gross revenue.

6 (3) “Fantasy competition operator” does not include an individual who:

7 (i) organizes a fantasy competition in which the individual also
8 participates; and

9 (ii) receives no compensation for organizing the fantasy competition.

10 (f) “Fantasy competition player” means an individual who participates in a
11 fantasy competition offered by a fantasy competition operator.

12 9–1D–02.

13 (a) [Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 12 of the Criminal Law Article or any
14 other title, and except as provided under subsection (b) of this section, the prohibitions
15 against] **A FANTASY COMPETITION CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE
16 PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE betting, wagering, [and] OR
17 gambling [do not apply to participation in a fantasy competition] FOR ANY PURPOSE.**

18 (b) A person may not operate a kiosk or machine that offers fantasy competition
19 to the public in a place of business physically located in the State.

20 **9–1D–05.**

21 **(A) EACH FANTASY COMPETITION OPERATOR SHALL:**

22 **(1) DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A PROGRAM TO MITIGATE AND CURTAIL
23 COMPULSIVE PLAY; AND**

24 **(2) INCLUDE A STATEMENT REGARDING OBTAINING ASSISTANCE
25 WITH REAL–MONEY GAMING PROBLEMS ON:**

26 **(I) THE FANTASY COMPETITION OPERATOR’S PORTAL,
27 WEBSITE, OR COMPUTER OR MOBILE APPLICATION; AND**

28 **(II) ALL MARKETING MATERIALS AND ADVERTISEMENTS OF THE
29 FANTASY COMPETITION OPERATOR.**

30 **(B) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

1 **(I) ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION LIST OF INDIVIDUALS**
2 **WHO HAVE REQUESTED TO BE EXCLUDED FROM ANY FANTASY COMPETITION**
3 **LICENSED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

4 **(II) PROVIDE A SIMPLE MECHANISM FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS**
5 **SOBER AND INFORMED TO REQUEST PLACEMENT ON THE VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION**
6 **LIST FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME.**

7 **(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL INCORPORATE THE VOLUNTARY**
8 **SELF-EXCLUSION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1)**
9 **OF THIS SUBSECTION INTO ANY OTHER SELF-EXCLUSION PROGRAM THAT THE**
10 **COMMISSION OPERATES.**

11 **(C) A FANTASY COMPETITION OPERATOR:**

12 **(1) MAY NOT PERMIT AN INDIVIDUAL ON THE VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION**
13 **LIST TO ESTABLISH A FANTASY COMPETITION ACCOUNT OR PARTICIPATE IN**
14 **FANTASY COMPETITIONS; AND**

15 **(2) MAY PERMIT AN INDIVIDUAL ON THE VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION LIST**
16 **WHO PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED A FANTASY COMPETITION ACCOUNT TO ACCESS**
17 **THE ACCOUNT ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF VIEWING AND DOWNLOADING THE**
18 **INDIVIDUAL'S TRANSACTION HISTORY.**

19 **(D) IF A SELF-EXCLUDED INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATES IN A FANTASY**
20 **COMPETITION, THE FANTASY COMPETITION OPERATOR SHALL REPORT TO THE**
21 **COMMISSION, AT MINIMUM:**

22 **(1) THE NAME OF THE SELF-EXCLUDED INDIVIDUAL;**

23 **(2) THE DATE OF THE PARTICIPATION;**

24 **(3) THE AMOUNT OR VALUE OF ANY MONEY, PRIZES, OR AWARDS**
25 **FORFEITED, IF ANY; AND**

26 **(4) ANY OTHER ACTION TAKEN BY THE FANTASY COMPETITION**
27 **OPERATOR.**

28 **(E) (1) A FANTASY COMPETITION OPERATOR MAY NOT PAY ANY PRIZE OR**
29 **AWARD TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ON THE COMMISSION'S SELF-EXCLUSION LIST.**

1 **(2) ANY PRIZE OR AWARD WON BY AN INDIVIDUAL ON THE**
2 **SELF-EXCLUSION LIST IS FORFEITED AND SHALL BE TRANSFERRED BY THE**
3 **FANTASY COMPETITION OPERATOR TO THE PROBLEM GAMBLING FUND**
4 **ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-1A-33 OF THIS TITLE ON A QUARTERLY BASIS, AS**
5 **SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSION.**

6 **(F) THE COMMISSION MAY IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON A FANTASY**
7 **COMPETITION OPERATOR THAT KNOWINGLY FAILS TO EXCLUDE AN INDIVIDUAL ON**
8 **THE VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION LIST FROM PARTICIPATING IN FANTASY**
9 **COMPETITIONS.**

10 ~~[9-1D-05.]~~ **9-1D-06.**

11 **[(a)]** The Commission shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this
12 subtitle.

13 **[(b)]** The regulations adopted under this section may include requirements for the
14 establishment of a voluntary exclusion list.]

15 9-1E-01.

16 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (i) (1) "Sporting event" means:

18 (i) a professional sports or athletic event;

19 (ii) a collegiate sports or athletic event;

20 (iii) an Olympic or international sports or athletic event;

21 (iv) an electronic sports or video game competition in which each
22 participant is at least 18 years old;

23 (v) a motor race event sanctioned by a motor racing governing entity;

24 (vi) except as otherwise prohibited under Title 11 of the Business
25 Regulation Article or the federal Interstate Horse Racing Act, a horse race, held in or out
26 of the State, if consented to and approved by:

27 1. the horse racing licensee of the applicable breed;

28 2. the organization representing the majority of the owners
29 and trainers of the applicable breed in the State;

1 3. the organization representing the majority of the
2 applicable breeders in the State; and

3 4. the State Racing Commission;

4 (vii) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBTITLE 1D OF THIS TITLE**, any
5 portion of a sporting event, including the individual performance statistics of athletes or
6 competitors in a sporting event; or

7 (viii) an award event or competition of national or international
8 prominence if expressly authorized by the Commission.

9 (2) “Sporting event” does not include:

10 (i) a high school sports or athletic event; or

11 (ii) a fantasy competition regulated under Subtitle 1D of this title.

12 (j) **(1)** “Sports wagering” means the business of accepting wagers on any
13 sporting event by any system or method of wagering, including single–game bets, teaser
14 bets, parlays, over–under, moneyline, pools, exchange wagering, in–game wagering,
15 in–play bets, proposition bets, and straight bets.

16 **(2) “SPORTS WAGERING” DOES NOT INCLUDE A FANTASY**
17 **COMPETITION CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH SUBTITLE 1D OF THIS TITLE.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2025.