

HOUSE BILL 1418

E1, C7

5lr3324

By: **Delegates Miller, Buckel, Fair, Griffith, Hartman, Hornberger, McComas,
Palakovich Carr, Reilly, and Rose**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Gaming – Online Gambling and Betting**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying that certain gambling and betting activities that are offered
4 or conducted online in the State are prohibited, except under certain circumstances;
5 requiring the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to report to certain
6 committees of the General Assembly on certain matters related to certain online
7 gaming; and generally relating to online gambling and betting activities.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Criminal Law

10 Section 12–113

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Criminal Law**

16 12–113.

17 (a) The Office of the Attorney General, the State Lottery and Gaming Control
18 Commission, the Department of State Police, local law enforcement units, and the court
19 shall construe liberally this title relating to gambling and betting to prevent the activities
20 prohibited.

21 (b) **GAMBLING AND BETTING ACTIVITIES THAT ARE OFFERED OR**
22 **CONDUCTED ONLINE IN THE STATE ARE PROHIBITED, EXCEPT AS:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) PROVIDED UNDER TITLE 9, SUBTITLES 1D AND IE OF THE STATE**
2 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE; OR**

3 **(2) AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.**

4 **(C)** A decision by the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission shall be the
5 final determination as to whether a gaming device being operated in the State is:

6 (1) a legal gaming device or device consistent with the provisions of this
7 article; and

8 (2) being operated in a lawful manner under this article.

9 **[(c)] (D)** If a local law enforcement unit fails to promptly enforce a final
10 determination made under subsection **[(b)] (C)** of this section, the State Lottery and
11 Gaming Control Commission shall refer the matter to the Department of State Police for
12 enforcement of the law.

13 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That, on or before January 1, 2026,
14 the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission shall report to the Senate Budget and
15 Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee and Ways and Means
16 Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on:

17 (1) the number of illegal online gaming platforms that can be accessed by
18 State residents;

19 (2) the amount of wagers being placed by individuals in the State using
20 illegal online gaming platforms;

21 (3) the means by which individuals in the State are able to access illegal
22 online gaming platforms;

23 (4) the means by which illegal online gaming operators are marketing to
24 individuals in the State;

25 (5) the manner in which individuals in the State are able to place wagers
26 through illegal online gaming platforms; and

27 (6) actions that are available to block access to illegal online gaming
28 platforms by individuals in the State, as well as compliance and enforcement measures that
29 the Commission may employ to cease operations of illegal online gaming platforms in the
30 State.

31 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect July
32 1, 2025.