

# HOUSE BILL 295

C7, E1  
HB 1140/25 – W&M

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0008  
CF SB 112

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By: **Chair, Ways and Means Committee (By Request – Departmental – Lottery and Gaming Control Agency)**

Requested: September 18, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Gaming – Prohibition on Interactive Games and Revenue From Illegal Markets**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain persons from operating, conducting, or promoting  
4 certain interactive games; requiring certain license applicants and licensees to report  
5 to the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission any business relationship with  
6 certain persons known to support, operate, conduct, or promote certain interactive  
7 games; requiring the Commission to deny certain license applications and revoke  
8 certain licenses under certain circumstances; requiring certain license applicants  
9 and licensees to submit a certain disclosure under certain circumstances; prohibiting  
10 the Commission from issuing a license to certain persons or allowing the person to  
11 commence or continue operations if the person or an affiliate of the person knowingly  
12 accepts revenue that is directly or indirectly derived from certain jurisdictions;  
13 authorizing the Commission to deny certain applications or impose certain sanctions  
14 under certain circumstances; and generally relating to interactive games and illegal  
15 gaming markets.

16 BY adding to  
17 Article – Criminal Law  
18 Section 12–115  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY adding to

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – State Government  
 2 Section 9–1A–07(g) and 9–1A–08.1  
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 6 Article – State Government  
 7 Section 9–1A–07(g) and 9–1E–03(a)(1)  
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 9 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Criminal Law**

13 **12–115.**

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

16 (2) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE STATE LOTTERY AND GAMING  
 17 CONTROL COMMISSION.

18 (3) (I) “INTERACTIVE GAME” MEANS A GAME, CONTEST, OR  
 19 PROMOTION THAT:

20 1. INVOLVES CONSIDERATION, CHANCE, AND REWARD;

21 ~~1.~~ 2. IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET OR ACCESSIBLE ON  
 22 A MOBILE PHONE, COMPUTER TERMINAL, OR SIMILAR DEVICE;

23 ~~2.~~ 3. UTILIZES MULTIPLE CURRENCY SYSTEMS OF  
 24 PAYMENT ALLOWING THE PLAYER TO EXCHANGE THE CURRENCY FOR ANY ~~PRIZE OR~~  
 25 ~~AWARD OR CASH OR CASH EQUIVALENTS~~ REWARD; AND

26 ~~3.~~ 4. SIMULATES:

27 A. CASINO–STYLE GAMING, SUCH AS SLOT MACHINES,  
 28 VIDEO POKER, AND TABLE GAMES, INCLUDING BLACKJACK, ROULETTE, CRAPS, AND  
 29 POKER;

30 B. LOTTERY GAMES, INCLUDING DRAW GAMES, INSTANT  
 31 WIN GAMES, KENO, AND BINGO; OR

1 C. SPORTS WAGERING.

2 (II) "INTERACTIVE GAME" DOES NOT INCLUDE A GAME THAT  
3 ~~SOLELY AWARDS NONCASH PRIZES;~~

4 1. IS FREE TO PLAY OR PLAYED WHILE NOT CONNECTED  
5 TO THE INTERNET; AND

6 2. DOES NOT INVOLVE CONSIDERATION, CHANCE, AND  
7 REWARD.

8 (4) "LICENSE" MEANS THE AUTHORITY ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION  
9 TO OFFER OR CONDUCT AN ACTIVITY UNDER TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 1A, 1B, 1D, OR 1E  
10 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

11 (5) "REWARD" MEANS ANY AWARD, CASH, CASH EQUIVALENT, PRIZE,  
12 OR AN ITEM CONVERTIBLE TO CASH THAT A PLAYER MAY RECEIVE FROM PLAYING  
13 AN INTERACTIVE GAME.

14 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO CLARIFY THAT THE  
15 COMMISSION'S AUTHORITY TO MAKE A FINAL DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER  
16 GAMING IS LEGAL IN THE STATE UNDER § 12-113 OF THIS SUBTITLE EXTENDS TO  
17 GAMES AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET OR ACCESSIBLE ON A MOBILE PHONE,  
18 COMPUTER TERMINAL, OR SIMILAR DEVICE.

19 ~~(B)~~ (C) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE, CONDUCT, OR PROMOTE AN  
20 INTERACTIVE GAME IN THE STATE.

21 (2) AN APPLICANT FOR OR A PERSON HOLDING A LICENSE SHALL  
22 REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ANNUALLY ANY BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH A  
23 FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, PAYMENT PROCESSOR, GEOLOCATION PROVIDER, GAMING  
24 CONTENT SUPPLIER, PLATFORM PROVIDER, OR MEDIA AFFILIATE THAT IS KNOWN  
25 TO SUPPORT, OPERATE, CONDUCT, OR PROMOTE AN INTERACTIVE GAME IN THE  
26 STATE.

27 ~~(C)~~ (D) (1) A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS  
28 GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT  
29 NOT EXCEEDING 3 YEARS OR A FINE NOT LESS THAN \$10,000 AND NOT EXCEEDING  
30 \$100,000 OR BOTH.

31 (2) A PERSON IS KNOWINGLY VIOLATING THIS SECTION IF:



1            ~~[(g)]~~ **(H)**    (1)    ~~[An individual]~~ **A PERSON** may not knowingly give false  
2 information or make a material misstatement in an application required for any license  
3 under this subtitle or in any supplemental information required by the Commission.

4            (2)    ~~[An individual]~~ **A PERSON** who violates this section is guilty of a  
5 misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine  
6 not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

7    **9-1A-08.1.**

8            **(A)    THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ISSUE A LICENSE TO A PERSON REQUIRED**  
9 **TO BE LICENSED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IF THE APPLICANT OR ANY OF THE**  
10 **APPLICANT'S AFFILIATES, INCLUDING AN ENTITY UNDER COMMON CONTROL,**  
11 **KNOWINGLY ACCEPTS REVENUE THAT IS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY DERIVED FROM:**

12            **(1)    A HIGH-RISK JURISDICTION SUBJECT TO A CALL FOR ACTION BY**  
13 **THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE;**

14            **(2)    A JURISDICTION DESIGNATED AS A STATE SPONSOR OF**  
15 **TERRORISM BY THE UNITED STATES; OR**

16            **(3)    A JURISDICTION IN WHICH ONLINE CASINO GAMING IS**  
17 **PROHIBITED AND THE REVENUE IS DERIVED FROM ONLINE CASINO GAMING IN THAT**  
18 **JURISDICTION.**

19            **(B)    (1)    THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ALLOW A PERSON REQUIRED TO BE**  
20 **LICENSED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO COMMENCE OR CONTINUE OPERATIONS IF THE**  
21 **COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT THE PERSON OR ANY OF THE PERSON'S**  
22 **AFFILIATES, INCLUDING ENTITIES UNDER COMMON CONTROL, KNOWINGLY**  
23 **ACCEPTS REVENUE THAT IS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY DERIVED FROM A**  
24 **JURISDICTION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

25            **(2)    THE COMMISSION MAY REVOKE THE LICENSE OF A LICENSEE**  
26 **THAT IS REQUIRED TO CEASE OPERATIONS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
27 **SUBSECTION IF, AFTER NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING, THE**  
28 **COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT IT WOULD FURTHER THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO**  
29 **DISCONTINUE THE OPERATION OF THE LICENSEE IN THE STATE.**

30    **9-1E-03.**

31            (a)    (1)    Unless the context requires otherwise, the requirements under §§  
32 9-1A-04, 9-1A-06, 9-1A-07, 9-1A-08, **9-1A-08.1**, 9-1A-12, 9-1A-14, 9-1A-18,  
33 9-1A-19, 9-1A-20, and 9-1A-25 of this title apply to the authority, duties, and

1 responsibilities of the Commission, a sports wagering licensee, and an employee or a  
2 contractor of a sports wagering licensee under this subtitle.

3           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
4 1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.