

# HOUSE BILL 1226

C7, E1, E2

6lr2429  
CF SB 652

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By: **Delegate Bartlett**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary and Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Illegal Online Gambling Enforcement Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain persons from operating, offering, conducting,  
4 engaging in, or promoting illegal online gambling in the State; prohibiting certain  
5 persons from knowingly supporting, directly or indirectly, the operation, conduct, or  
6 promotion of illegal online gambling in the State; authorizing the Attorney General  
7 and certain prosecuting attorneys to take certain actions, issue certain orders, and  
8 seek certain relief in order to enforce this Act; making a violation of this Act an  
9 unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice under the Maryland Consumer  
10 Protection Act; and generally relating to illegal online gambling.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Commercial Law  
13 Section 13–301(14)(xlvii)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2025 Replacement Volume)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
17 Article – Commercial Law  
18 Section 13–301(14)(xlviii)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2025 Replacement Volume)

21 BY adding to  
22 Article – Commercial Law  
23 Section 13–301(14)(xlix)  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2025 Replacement Volume)

26 BY adding to  
27 Article – State Government

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 9–1F–01 through 9–1F–16 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 1F. Illegal  
2 Online Gambling”  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Commercial Law**

8 13–301.

9 Unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practices include any:

10 (14) Violation of a provision of:

11 (xlvii) Title 14, Subtitle 50 of this article; [or]

12 (xlviii) Section 13–411.1(c)(2) of the Transportation Article; or

13 (XLIX) **TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 1F OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**  
14 **ARTICLE; OR**

15 **Article – State Government**

16 **SUBTITLE 1F. ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING.**

17 **9–1F–01.**

18 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
19 INDICATED.

20 (B) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE STATE LOTTERY AND GAMING CONTROL  
21 COMMISSION.

22 (C) “DIVISION” MEANS THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION OF THE  
23 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

24 (D) “FINANCIAL TRANSACTION PROVIDER” MEANS ANY PERSON THAT  
25 FACILITATES OR PARTICIPATES IN ANY FINANCIAL TRANSACTION BETWEEN AN  
26 ONLINE GAMBLING PLAYER AND AN ONLINE GAMBLING OPERATOR, INCLUDING A  
27 PAYMENT PROCESSOR, CREDIT CARD ISSUER, FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, MONEY  
28 TRANSMITTING BUSINESS, OR PAYMENT NETWORK UTILIZED TO EFFECT A CREDIT  
29 CARD TRANSACTION, A DEBIT CARD TRANSACTION, AN ELECTRONIC FUND

1 TRANSFER OR A MONEY TRANSMITTING SERVICE, OR ANY OTHER PARTICIPANT IN A  
2 DESIGNATED PAYMENT SYSTEM.

3 (E) "ILLEGAL" MEANS NOT EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY APPLICABLE LAW.

4 (F) "ONLINE GAMBLING" MEANS THE BUSINESS OF OFFERING OR  
5 ACCEPTING WAGERS, THROUGH AN ONLINE GAMING SYSTEM ON A COMPUTER,  
6 MOBILE DEVICE, TABLET, OR ANY OTHER INTERACTIVE DEVICE, ON ANY GAME,  
7 CONTEST, LOTTERY, PROMOTION, OR CONTRIVANCE THEREOF, INCLUDING TABLE  
8 GAMES, SLOT MACHINES, VIDEO POKER, SWEEPSTAKES GAMES, GAMES OF CHANCE,  
9 AND ANY OTHER GAME TYPICALLY OFFERED IN A CASINO.

10 (G) (1) "ONLINE GAMBLING OPERATOR" MEANS A PERSON WHO OWNS,  
11 MAINTAINS, OR OPERATES AN INTERNET WEBSITE THAT IS USED FOR ILLEGAL  
12 ONLINE GAMBLING.

13 (2) "ONLINE GAMBLING OPERATOR" DOES NOT INCLUDE A PERSON  
14 LICENSED TO CONDUCT ONLINE SPORTS WAGERING OR FANTASY COMPETITIONS  
15 UNDER SUBTITLES 1D AND 1E OF THIS TITLE.

16 (H) "PLATFORM PROVIDER" MEANS ANY PERSON THAT:

17 (1) STORES OR HOSTS CONTENT, FILES, DATA, AND OTHER  
18 INFORMATION ON A WEB SERVER; AND

19 (2) MAKES THE CONTENT, FILES, DATA, OR OTHER INFORMATION  
20 ACCESSIBLE ON AN INTERNET WEBSITE VIA A COMPUTER, MOBILE DEVICE, TABLET,  
21 OR OTHER INTERACTIVE DEVICE.

22 (I) "SWEEPSTAKES GAMES" MEANS A GAME, CONTEST, OR PROMOTION  
23 THAT:

24 (1) UTILIZES A DUAL-CURRENCY SYSTEM OF PAYMENT ALLOWING  
25 THE PLAYER TO EXCHANGE THE CURRENCY FOR ANY PRIZE, AWARD, CASH OR CASH  
26 EQUIVALENTS, OR CHANCE TO WIN ANY PRIZE, AWARD, CASH OR CASH  
27 EQUIVALENTS; AND

28 (2) SIMULATES ANY FORM OF GAMBLING, INCLUDING:

29 (I) CASINO-STYLE GAMES, INCLUDING SLOT MACHINES, VIDEO  
30 POKER, AND TABLE GAMES SUCH AS BLACKJACK, ROULETTE, CRAPS, AND POKER;

1 (II) LOTTERY GAMES INCLUDING DRAW GAMES, INSTANT WIN  
2 GAMES, KENO, AND BINGO; AND

3 (III) SPORTS WAGERING.

4 (J) "WAGER" MEANS THE PROVISION OF CONSIDERATION, INCLUDING  
5 MONEY OR ANYTHING OF VALUE, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY ANY  
6 GAME, CONTEST, LOTTERY, OR CONTRIVANCE AND RECEIVE MONEY OR SOMETHING  
7 OF VALUE IN THE EVENT OF A CERTAIN OUTCOME, WHICH OUTCOME IS DETERMINED  
8 BY SKILL, CHANCE, OR ELEMENTS OF SKILL AND CHANCE.

9 9-1F-02.

10 THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO A PERSON LICENSED TO OFFER ONLINE  
11 SPORTS WAGERING OR FANTASY COMPETITIONS UNDER SUBTITLES 1D AND 1E OF  
12 THIS TITLE.

13 9-1F-03.

14 A PERSON MAY NOT:

15 (1) OPERATE, OFFER, CONDUCT, ENGAGE IN, OR PROMOTE ILLEGAL  
16 ONLINE GAMBLING IN THE STATE; OR

17 (2) KNOWINGLY SUPPORT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THE  
18 OPERATION, CONDUCT, OR PROMOTION OF ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING IN THE  
19 STATE.

20 9-1F-04.

21 (A) (1) THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, ACTING THROUGH  
22 THE DIVISION, OR A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MAY ISSUE A WRITTEN CEASE AND  
23 DESIST ORDER TO ANY PERSON THAT VIOLATES § 9-1F-03(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

24 (2) A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:

25 (I) SPECIFY THE ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING ACTIVITY;

26 (II) STATE THAT THE PERSON HAS 10 DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON  
27 WHICH THE ORDER IS RECEIVED TO BLOCK THE ABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS  
28 PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE TO ACCESS THE ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING  
29 ACTIVITY; AND

1           **(III) STATE THAT FAILURE TO BLOCK ACCESS TO THE ILLEGAL**  
2 **ONLINE GAMBLING ACTIVITY WITHIN 10 DAYS MAY RESULT IN IMPRISONMENT OR A**  
3 **FINE OR BOTH, AS PROVIDED UNDER § 9-1F-06(A)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

4           **(B) (1) A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY WHO IS NOT THE ATTORNEY**  
5 **GENERAL WHO ISSUES A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**  
6 **SECTION SHALL FORWARD A COPY OF THE ORDER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

7           **(2) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL MAINTAIN:**

8           **(I) A DEPOSITORY TO COLLECT, MAINTAIN, AND RETAIN EACH**  
9 **CEASE AND DESIST ORDER ISSUED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

10           **(II) A LIST, PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON THE OFFICE OF THE**  
11 **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INTERNET WEBSITE, THAT IDENTIFIES THE NAME OF EACH**  
12 **ONLINE GAMBLING OPERATOR AND THE ASSOCIATED ONLINE GAMBLING INTERNET**  
13 **WEBSITE URL ADDRESS THAT HAS BEEN ISSUED A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER.**

14           **(3) THE FAILURE OF A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OR THE ATTORNEY**  
15 **GENERAL TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUBSECTION IS NOT A DEFENSE TO ANY ACTION**  
16 **COMMENCED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

17           **(C) (1) A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER ISSUED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF**  
18 **THIS SECTION SHALL BE SERVED:**

19           **(I) IN COMPLIANCE WITH MARYLAND RULES 2-121 AND 2-124;**  
20 **OR**

21           **(II) BY PUBLICATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH MARYLAND RULE**  
22 **2-122(A)(2).**

23           **(2) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS NOT REQUIRED TO MAKE**  
24 **REASONABLE EFFORTS TO LOCATE THE ONLINE GAMBLING OPERATOR BEFORE**  
25 **SERVING THE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER BY PUBLICATION.**

26           **(D) A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER SERVED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS**  
27 **SECTION:**

28           **(1) IS ADMISSIBLE IN ANY PROCEEDING UNDER THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

29           **(2) CONSTITUTES PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE PERSON HAS**  
30 **KNOWLEDGE THAT ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING WAS OCCURRING ON THE ONLINE**  
31 **GAMBLING OPERATOR'S INTERNET WEBSITE.**

1 (E) A PERSON OUTSIDE THE STATE WHO OWNS, MAINTAINS, OR OPERATES  
2 AN INTERNET WEBSITE THAT TRANSMITS INFORMATION THROUGH OR WITH A  
3 PLATFORM PROVIDER AND WHO KNOWS OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THE  
4 INFORMATION IS BROADCAST WITHIN THE STATE SUBMITS TO THE JURISDICTION  
5 OF STATE COURTS FOR ENFORCEMENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

6 (F) BEFORE ISSUING A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER UNDER SUBSECTION (A)  
7 OF THIS SECTION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY PROVIDE REASONABLE NOTICE TO  
8 THE COMMISSION TO ALLOW THE COMMISSION TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WILL  
9 JOIN THE ORDER.

10 **9-1F-05.**

11 WHENEVER THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, ACTING THROUGH THE DIVISION, OR  
12 A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A PERSON IS VIOLATING  
13 § 9-1F-03 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR TAKING ANY OTHER ACTION IN VIOLATION OF THIS  
14 SUBTITLE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MAY BRING AN  
15 ACTION IN THE NAME OF THE STATE TO RESTRAIN BY TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT  
16 INJUNCTION THE CONDUCT GIVING RISE TO THE VIOLATION.

17 **9-1F-06.**

18 (A) (1) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES § 9-1F-03(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE IS  
19 GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO:

20 (I) FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3  
21 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$50,000 OR BOTH; AND

22 (II) FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION, IMPRISONMENT NOT  
23 EXCEEDING 3 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$100,000 OR BOTH.

24 (2) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES § 9-1F-03(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE IS  
25 SUBJECT TO:

26 (I) FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$25,000;  
27 AND

28 (II) FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION, A FINE NOT  
29 EXCEEDING \$50,000.

30 (B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

1           **(1) EACH ONLINE GAMBLING WAGER OFFERED OR ACCEPTED BY A**  
2 **PERSON CONSTITUTES A SEPARATE VIOLATION; AND**

3           **(2) EACH INDIVIDUAL PROMOTION OF ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING IN**  
4 **THE STATE CONSTITUTES A SEPARATE VIOLATION.**

5           **(C) A COURT SHALL ORDER THE FORFEITURE OF ANY PROFITS, GAINS,**  
6 **GROSS RECEIPTS, OR OTHER BENEFITS EARNED BY A PERSON IN CONNECTION WITH**  
7 **A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

8           **(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL REVOKE A GAMING LICENSE ISSUED UNDER**  
9 **THIS TITLE HELD BY A PERSON FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED § 9-1F-03 OF THIS**  
10 **SUBTITLE, AND THE PERSON IS INELIGIBLE IN THE FUTURE TO HOLD A GAMING**  
11 **LICENSE ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION.**

12 **9-1F-07.**

13           **(A) A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION PROVIDER MAY NOT KNOWINGLY ACCEPT**  
14 **OR PROCESS ANY FINANCIAL TRANSACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE**  
15 **PARTICIPATION OF A PERSON IN ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING.**

16           **(B) A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION PROVIDER SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE**  
17 **CONSTRUCTIVE KNOWLEDGE THAT ALL PERSONS AND INTERNET WEBSITE URLS**  
18 **IDENTIFIED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9-1F-04 OF THIS**  
19 **SUBTITLE ARE ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING.**

20 **9-1F-08.**

21           **(A) (1) A PLATFORM PROVIDER MAY NOT RECEIVE OR TRANSMIT**  
22 **THROUGH ITS SERVICE ANY EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION THAT IT REASONABLY**  
23 **BELIEVES IS OR WILL BE SENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF A**  
24 **PERSON IN ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING.**

25           **(2) A PLATFORM PROVIDER IS DEEMED TO HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE**  
26 **KNOWLEDGE THAT ALL PERSONS AND WEBSITE URLS IDENTIFIED BY THE**  
27 **ATTORNEY GENERAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9-1F-04 OF THIS SUBTITLE ARE**  
28 **ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING.**

29           **(B) BEFORE HOSTING, FACILITATING, OR TRANSMITTING ANY ONLINE**  
30 **GAMBLING ADVERTISEMENT ON A WEBSITE, A PLATFORM PROVIDER SHALL:**

31           **(1) OBTAIN A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE ONLINE GAMBLING**  
32 **OPERATOR'S LICENSE OR PERMIT TO OFFER ONLINE GAMBLING IN THE STATE; OR**

1           **(2) OBTAIN WRITTEN CONFIRMATION FROM THE COMMISSION THAT**  
2 **THE OPERATOR IS LICENSED OR PERMITTED TO OFFER ONLINE GAMBLING IN THE**  
3 **STATE.**

4 **9-1F-09.**

5           **(A) (1) A PLATFORM PROVIDER MAY, ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE, BLOCK THE**  
6 **RECEIPT OR TRANSMISSION THROUGH ITS SERVICE ANY EXCHANGE OF**  
7 **INFORMATION THAT IT REASONABLY BELIEVES IS OR WILL BE SENT IN VIOLATION**  
8 **OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

9           **(2) A PLATFORM PROVIDER MAY NOT BE HELD LIABLE IN TORT TO**  
10 **ANY PERSON FOR BLOCKING THE RECEIPT OR TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION**  
11 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

12           **(3) (I) THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, ACTING**  
13 **THROUGH THE DIVISION, OR A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MAY ISSUE A WRITTEN**  
14 **CEASE AND DESIST ORDER TO A PLATFORM PROVIDER DIRECTING THAT IT BLOCK**  
15 **THE RECEIPT OR TRANSMISSION THROUGH ITS SERVICE OF ANY EXCHANGE OF**  
16 **INFORMATION IN VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE AND TAKE DOWN OR DISABLE ANY**  
17 **INTERNET WEBSITE CONDUCTING OR OFFERING ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING TO**  
18 **PERSONS PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE.**

19           **(II) THE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER SHALL:**

20                   **1. IDENTIFY THE ONLINE GAMBLING INTERNET**  
21 **WEBSITE URL THAT THE PLATFORM PROVIDER MUST DISABLE AND FOR WHICH IT**  
22 **MUST BLOCK THE RECEIPT OR TRANSMISSION OF ANY EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**  
23 **THROUGH ITS SERVICE;**

24                   **2. STATE THAT THE PLATFORM PROVIDER HAS 30 DAYS**  
25 **AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE ORDER IS RECEIVED TO DISABLE THE ONLINE**  
26 **GAMBLING WEBSITE FROM ACCESS BY INDIVIDUALS PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE**  
27 **STATE AND BLOCK THE RECEIPT OR TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION THROUGH ITS**  
28 **SERVICE AS REQUIRED IN THE ORDER; AND**

29                   **3. STATE THAT FAILURE TO DISABLE THE ONLINE**  
30 **GAMBLING INTERNET WEBSITE FROM ACCESS BY PERSONS PHYSICALLY LOCATED**  
31 **IN THE STATE AND BLOCK THE RECEIPT OR TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION**  
32 **THROUGH ITS SERVICE WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE ORDER MAY RESULT**  
33 **IN A FINE UNDER § 9-1F-06(A)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR EACH DAY THAT THE**  
34 **ONLINE GAMBLING INTERNET WEBSITE URL IS NOT DISABLED TO PERSONS**

1 PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE AND FOR EACH RECEIPT OR TRANSMISSION OF  
2 INFORMATION THROUGH ITS SERVICE AS REQUIRED IN THE ORDER.

3 (III) A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER ISSUED UNDER THIS  
4 PARAGRAPH MAY BE SERVED ON A PLATFORM PROVIDER BY REGISTERED MAIL OR  
5 FIRST-CLASS MAIL AT ANY ADDRESS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE FOR THE  
6 PLATFORM PROVIDER OR AT WHICH THE PLATFORM PROVIDER CONDUCTS  
7 BUSINESS.

8 (IV) A PLATFORM PROVIDER SHALL TIMELY COMPLY WITH A  
9 CEASE AND DESIST ORDER SERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PARAGRAPH.

10 (V) A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER SERVED UNDER THIS  
11 PARAGRAPH:

12 1. IS ADMISSIBLE IN ANY PROCEEDING UNDER THIS  
13 SUBTITLE; AND

14 2. CONSTITUTES PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT A  
15 PLATFORM PROVIDER HAD KNOWLEDGE THAT ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING WAS  
16 OCCURRING ON THE ONLINE GAMBLING INTERNET WEBSITE URL IDENTIFIED IN  
17 THE ORDER.

18 (VI) A PLATFORM PROVIDER WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF  
19 BUSINESS IS OUTSIDE THE STATE WHOSE SERVICE FACILITATES THE EXCHANGE OF  
20 INFORMATION OVER THE INTERNET TO OR FROM PERSONS PHYSICALLY LOCATED  
21 IN THE STATE SUBMITS TO THE JURISDICTION OF STATE COURTS FOR  
22 ENFORCEMENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

23 (B) (1) A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION PROVIDER MAY, ON ITS OWN  
24 INITIATIVE, BLOCK, PROHIBIT, PREVENT, OR OTHERWISE REFUSE TO HONOR ANY  
25 FINANCIAL TRANSACTION THAT IT REASONABLY BELIEVES IS OR WILL BE IN  
26 VIOLATION OF § 9-1F-07 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

27 (2) A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION PROVIDER MAY NOT BE HELD LIABLE  
28 IN TORT TO ANY PERSON FOR TAKING THE ACTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER  
29 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

30 (C) (1) THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, ACTING THROUGH  
31 THE DIVISION, OR A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MAY ISSUE A WRITTEN CEASE AND  
32 DESIST ORDER TO ANY APPLICANT, LICENSED ENTITY, FINANCIAL TRANSACTION  
33 PROVIDER, GEOLOCATION PROVIDER, GAMING CONTENT SUPPLIER, PROMOTER,  
34 CELEBRITY ENDORSER, MEDIA AFFILIATE, OR ANY OTHER PERSON TO DISCONTINUE

1 ITS SUPPORT OF THE OPERATION, CONDUCT, OR PROMOTION OF ILLEGAL ONLINE  
2 GAMBLING WITHIN THE STATE.

3 (2) THE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION  
4 SHALL:

5 (I) IDENTIFY THE ONLINE GAMBLING INTERNET WEBSITE URL  
6 THAT THE PERSON MUST CEASE, BLOCK, DISCONTINUE, AND PREVENT ANY SUPPORT  
7 OF WITH RESPECT TO ACTIVITIES INVOLVING ONLINE GAMBLING WITHIN THE  
8 STATE;

9 (II) STATE THAT THE PERSON HAS 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE ON  
10 WHICH THE ORDER IS RECEIVED TO IMPLEMENT THE DIRECTIVES IN THE ORDER;  
11 AND

12 (III) STATE THAT FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE DIRECTIVES SET  
13 FORTH IN THE ORDER WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE ORDER MAY RESULT  
14 IN A FINE UNDER § 9-1F-06(A)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR EACH ACT OF SUPPORT IN  
15 RELATION TO THE ONLINE GAMBLING INTERNET WEBSITE URL IDENTIFIED IN THE  
16 ORDER INVOLVING A PERSON PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE.

17 (3) A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION  
18 MAY BE SERVED ON THE PERSON BY REGISTERED MAIL OR FIRST-CLASS MAIL AT  
19 ANY ADDRESS REGISTERED WITH THE STATE FOR THE PERSON OR AT WHICH THE  
20 PERSON CONDUCTS BUSINESS.

21 (4) A PERSON SHALL COMPLY TIMELY WITH A CEASE AND DESIST  
22 ORDER SERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

23 (5) A CEASE AND DESIST ORDER UNDER THIS SUBSECTION:

24 (I) IS ADMISSIBLE IN ANY PROCEEDING UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;  
25 AND

26 (II) CONSTITUTES PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE PERSON  
27 HAS KNOWLEDGE THAT ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING WAS OCCURRING ON THE  
28 ONLINE GAMBLING INTERNET WEBSITE URL IDENTIFIED IN THE ORDER.

29 (6) A PERSON WHOSE PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS OUTSIDE  
30 THE STATE THAT SUPPORTS ONLINE GAMBLING WITHIN OR INVOLVING ANY PERSON  
31 PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE SUBMITS TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE  
32 COURTS FOR ENFORCEMENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

1           **(D) THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION MAY CONSULT WITH THE ATTORNEY**  
2 **GENERAL ON THE ISSUANCE OF CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS UNDER SUBSECTIONS**  
3 **(A)(3) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION.**

4 **9-1F-10.**

5           **(A) (1) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER REMEDY UNDER CURRENT LAW, ON**  
6 **APPLICATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY AND**  
7 **REGARDLESS OF WHETHER PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN INITIATED UNDER THIS**  
8 **SUBTITLE, A COURT MAY ISSUE ANY RELIEF THAT IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE TO**  
9 **PREVENT AND RESTRAIN ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED BY THIS SUBTITLE.**

10           **(2) THE RELIEF MAY INCLUDE A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, A**  
11 **PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION, OR AN INJUNCTION AGAINST ANY PERSON TO PREVENT**  
12 **OR RESTRAIN ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING AND ANY RELATED TRANSACTIONS OR**  
13 **ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF ANY ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING**  
14 **INTERNET WEBSITE, THE FREEZING OF BANK OR CREDIT ACCOUNTS ASSOCIATED**  
15 **WITH THE INTERNET WEBSITE OR THE ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING ACTIVITY, AND**  
16 **THE REMOVAL OF A PERSON'S ACCESS TO SUCH INTERNET WEBSITES OR ACCOUNTS**  
17 **BY A PERSON WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING ACTIVITY.**

18           **(3) IN AN ACTION SEEKING INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, A VIOLATION OF**  
19 **THIS SUBTITLE IS CONCLUSIVELY DETERMINED TO BE AN IRREPARABLE HARM.**

20           **(B) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE REMEDIES AVAILABLE UNDER SUBSECTION**  
21 **(A) OF THIS SECTION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MAY**  
22 **SEEK AN EX PARTE INJUNCTION TO:**

23                   **(I) COMPEL A PLATFORM PROVIDER TO REMOVE OR DISABLE**  
24 **ACCESS TO AN INTERNET WEBSITE VIOLATING THIS SUBTITLE OR A HYPERTEXT**  
25 **LINK TO A WEBSITE VIOLATING THIS SUBTITLE;**

26                   **(II) ENJOIN A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION PROVIDER FROM**  
27 **PROCESSING TRANSACTIONS FOR THE ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING OPERATOR; AND**

28                   **(III) COMPEL A PERSON TO DISCONTINUE SUPPORTING ILLEGAL**  
29 **ONLINE GAMBLING IN THE STATE.**

30           **(2) A HEARING ON THE EX PARTE INJUNCTION MUST BE HELD WITHIN**  
31 **30 DAYS AFTER IT IS FILED, AND AFTER THE HEARING THE COURT MAY CONVERT**  
32 **THE INJUNCTION TO A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION.**

1           **(C) (1) THE RELIEF GRANTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OR (B) OF THIS**  
2 **SECTION AGAINST A PLATFORM PROVIDER THAT IS NOT OTHERWISE ENGAGED IN**  
3 **ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING SHALL:**

4                   **(I) BE LIMITED TO THE REMOVAL OF OR DISABLING OF ACCESS**  
5 **TO THE INTERNET WEBSITE VIOLATING THIS SUBTITLE, OR A HYPERTEXT LINK TO**  
6 **AN INTERNET WEBSITE VIOLATING THIS SUBTITLE, THAT IS STORED ON A**  
7 **COMPUTER SERVER THAT THE PLATFORM PROVIDER CONTROLS OR OPERATES;**

8                   **(II) SPECIFY THE INTERNET WEBSITE TO WHICH IT APPLIES;**  
9 **AND**

10                   **(III) SPECIFY THE INTERNET WEBSITE OR HYPERTEXT LINK TO**  
11 **BE REMOVED OR ACCESS TO WHICH IS TO BE DISABLED.**

12           **(2) A VIOLATION OF AN ORDER ENTERED AGAINST A PLATFORM**  
13 **PROVIDER IS PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF \$50,000 FOR A FIRST VIOLATION AND**  
14 **\$100,000 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION FOR EACH DAY THAT THE ILLEGAL**  
15 **GAMING ACTIVITY REMAINS ACCESSIBLE ON THE INTERNET WEBSITE TO PERSONS**  
16 **PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE.**

17           **(D) (1) THE RELIEF GRANTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OR (B) OF THIS**  
18 **SECTION AGAINST A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION PROVIDER OR OTHER PERSON THAT**  
19 **SUPPORTS THE OPERATION, CONDUCT, OR PROMOTION OF ILLEGAL ONLINE**  
20 **GAMBLING AND IS NOT OTHERWISE ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING SHALL:**

21                   **(I) BE LIMITED TO THE SUSPENSION OF PROCESSING**  
22 **TRANSACTIONS FOR THE ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING OPERATOR WITH PERSONS**  
23 **PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE;**

24                   **(II) BE LIMITED TO CEASING SUPPORT OF THE OPERATION,**  
25 **CONDUCT, OR PROMOTION OF ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING IN THE STATE; AND**

26                   **(III) SPECIFY THE INTERNET WEBSITE TO WHICH IT APPLIES.**

27           **(2) (I) A VIOLATION OF AN ORDER ENTERED AGAINST A FINANCIAL**  
28 **TRANSACTION PROVIDER OR OTHER PERSON THAT SUPPORTS THE OPERATION,**  
29 **CONDUCT, OR PROMOTION OF ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING IS PUNISHABLE BY A**  
30 **FINE OF \$50,000 FOR A FIRST VIOLATION AND \$100,000 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT**  
31 **VIOLATION.**

1           **(II) EACH ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING TRANSACTION THAT IS**  
2 **PROCESSED AND EACH ACT OF SUPPORT OF ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMBLING**  
3 **CONSTITUTES A SEPARATE VIOLATION.**

4 **9-1F-11.**

5           **THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS**  
6 **WITH THE COMMISSION OR ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
7 **AGENCY FOR THE EXCHANGE AND RELEASE OF INVESTIGATORY AND OTHER**  
8 **INFORMATION IF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DETERMINES THAT THE**  
9 **RELEASE OF THE INFORMATION WILL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY OF THE**  
10 **STATE AS REFLECTED IN THIS SUBTITLE.**

11 **9-1F-12.**

12           **THE COMMISSION MAY DENY, REVOKE, SUSPEND, CONDITION, OR LIMIT**  
13 **LICENSES OR PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH**  
14 **THIS SUBTITLE.**

15 **9-1F-13.**

16           **A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE IS:**

17           **(1) AN UNFAIR, ABUSIVE, OR DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE WITHIN**  
18 **THE MEANING OF TITLE 13 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE; AND**

19           **(2) SUBJECT TO THE ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY PROVISIONS**  
20 **CONTAINED IN TITLE 13 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE.**

21 **9-1F-14.**

22           **THE DIVISION SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES, REGULATIONS,**  
23 **AND STANDARDS TO FURTHER THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING THE**  
24 **PREVENTION AND RESTRAINT OF THE CONDUCT AND OFFERING OF ILLEGAL ONLINE**  
25 **GAMBLING TO PERSONS PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THE STATE.**

26 **9-1F-15.**

27           **THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, AND**  
28 **THE COURT SHALL CONSTRUE LIBERALLY THIS SUBTITLE RELATING TO GAMBLING**  
29 **AND BETTING TO PREVENT THE ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED.**

30 **9-1F-16.**

1           **THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CITED AS THE MARYLAND ILLEGAL ONLINE**  
2 **GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT ACT.**

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