

HOUSE BILL 157

C7

5lr0387

By: **Delegate Holmes**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2015

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Gaming – Home Games**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing a person to conduct a home game that is a game of chance or
4 skill involving wagering that is conducted in a person's home or a residential
5 property that is restricted to housing for certain persons and allows a player to
6 compete directly against one or more other players; prohibiting a person from
7 conducting a home game involving a player's use of an electronic device that connects
8 to the Internet; prohibiting a person from benefiting financially in any way, directly
9 or indirectly, other than from the winnings accrued by participating as a player in a
10 home game; and generally relating to gaming.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Criminal Law
13 Section 12–102(a) and 13–203
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Criminal Law**

19 12–102.

20 (a) **[A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 13–203 OF THIS ARTICLE**, A person may
21 not:

22 (1) bet, wager, or gamble;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) make or sell a book or pool on the result of a race, contest, or
2 contingency;

3 (3) establish, keep, rent, use, or occupy, or knowingly allow to be
4 established, kept, rented, used, or occupied, all or a part of a building, vessel, or place, on
5 land or water, within the State, for the purpose of:

6 (i) betting, wagering, or gambling; or

7 (ii) making, selling, or buying books or pools on the result of a race,
8 contest, or contingency; or

9 (4) receive, become the depository of, record, register, or forward, or
10 propose, agree, or pretend to forward, money or any other thing or consideration of value,
11 to be bet, wagered, or gambled on the result of a race, contest, or contingency.

12 13–203.

13 This title and Title 12 of this article do not prohibit:

14 **(1)** a qualified organization from conducting a gaming event for the
15 exclusive benefit of a qualified organization if an individual or group of individuals does
16 not:

17 **[(1)] (I)** benefit financially from the gaming event under this subtitle; or

18 **[(2)] (II)** receive any of the proceeds from the gaming event under this
19 subtitle for personal use or benefit; **OR**

20 **(2)** **A PERSON FROM CONDUCTING A HOME GAME THAT IS A GAME OF**
21 **CHANCE OR SKILL INVOLVING WAGERING THAT:**

22 **(I)** **IS CONDUCTED IN:**

23 **1.** **THE PERSON’S HOME; OR**

24 **2.** **A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY THAT IS RESTRICTED TO**
25 **HOUSING FOR PERSONS WHO ARE AT LEAST 55 YEARS OLD;**

26 **(II)** **ALLOWS A PLAYER TO COMPETE DIRECTLY AGAINST ONE OR**
27 **MORE OTHER PLAYERS;**

28 **(III)** **DOES NOT INVOLVE A PLAYER’S USE OF AN ELECTRONIC**
29 **DEVICE THAT CONNECTS TO THE INTERNET; AND**

1 **(IV) DOES NOT ALLOW A PERSON TO BENEFIT FINANCIALLY IN**
2 **ANY WAY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, OTHER THAN FROM THE WINNINGS ACCRUED**
3 **BY PARTICIPATING AS A PLAYER IN THE GAME.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2015.