

# HOUSE BILL 295

C7, E1  
HB 1140/25 – W&M

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0008  
CF SB 112

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

## A BILL ENTITLED

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  
22 Article – State Government  
23 Section 9–1A–07(g) and 9–1A–08.1  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – State Government  
Section 9–1A–07(g) and 9–1E–03(a)(1)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

**Article – Criminal Law**

**12–115.**

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

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

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

**1. IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET OR ACCESSIBLE ON  
A MOBILE PHONE, COMPUTER TERMINAL, OR SIMILAR DEVICE;**

**2. UTILIZES MULTIPLE CURRENCY SYSTEMS OF  
PAYMENT ALLOWING THE PLAYER TO EXCHANGE THE CURRENCY FOR ANY PRIZE OR  
AWARD OR CASH OR CASH EQUIVALENTS; AND**

**3. SIMULATES:**

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

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

**C. SPORTS WAGERING.**

**(II) “INTERACTIVE GAME” DOES NOT INCLUDE A GAME THAT  
SOLELY AWARDS NONCASH PRIZES.**

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

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

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

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

(2) IF A PERSON IS FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL DENY THE PERSON'S LICENSE APPLICATION OR REVOKE A LICENSE HELD BY THE PERSON.

#### Article – State Government

9–1A–07.

(G) (1) (I) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(II) "ILLEGAL INTERACTIVE GAMING MARKET" MEANS A JURISDICTION IN WHICH AN INTERACTIVE GAME IS PROHIBITED BY THE LAWS OF THAT JURISDICTION.

(III) "INTERACTIVE GAME" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 12–115 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.

(2) ON APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE AND ANNUALLY FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE, AN APPLICANT OR A LICENSEE SHALL SUBMIT A DISCLOSURE STATING, FOR THE IMMEDIATE PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD, THE JURISDICTIONS IN WHICH THE APPLICANT OR LICENSEE OR ANY AFFILIATE OF THE APPLICANT OR LICENSEE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ACCEPTED REVENUE FROM THE CONDUCT OF AN INTERACTIVE GAME IN AN ILLEGAL INTERACTIVE GAMING MARKET.

(3) A MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATION OR OMISSION ON THE DISCLOSURE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE THE BASIS FOR THE COMMISSION TO DENY AN APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE OR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9-1A-25 OF THIS SUBTITLE, IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON A LICENSEE AND THE LICENSEE'S OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS.

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

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

**9-1A-08.1.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 9-1E-03.

2 (a) (1) Unless the context requires otherwise, the requirements under §§  
3 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,  
4 9-1A-19, 9-1A-20, and 9-1A-25 of this title apply to the authority, duties, and  
5 responsibilities of the Commission, a sports wagering licensee, and an employee or a  
6 contractor of a sports wagering licensee under this subtitle.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2026.