

# HOUSE BILL 1587

C7

6lr3639

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By: **Delegate Patterson**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Gaming – Electronic Instant Bingo Machines – Operation and Maximum**  
3 **Number of Machines**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “slot machine” to repeal a limitation on the  
5 number of bingo cards certain handheld devices may allow a user to play at the same  
6 time; increasing the number of electronic instant bingo machines that certain  
7 entities may operate; providing that an electronic instant bingo machine is not  
8 required to print a paper ticket for each instant bingo game played except under  
9 certain circumstances; and generally relating to electronic instant bingo machines.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Criminal Law  
12 Section 12–301, 12–301.1(e), and 12–308  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Chapter 603 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2012  
17 Section 3

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

### Article – Criminal Law

20 12–301.

21 In this subtitle:

22 (1) “slot machine” means a machine, apparatus, or device that:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) operates or can be made to operate by inserting, depositing, or  
2 placing with another person money, a token, or another object; and

3 (ii) through the element of chance, the reading of a game of chance,  
4 the delivery of a game of chance, or any other outcome unpredictable by the user, awards  
5 the user:

6 1. money, a token, or other object that represents or that can  
7 be converted into money; or

8 2. the right to receive money, a token, or another object that  
9 represents and can be converted into money;

10 (2) "slot machine" includes:

11 (i) a machine, apparatus, or device described in item (1) of this  
12 section that also sells, delivers, or awards merchandise, money, or some other tangible  
13 thing of value;

14 (ii) a pinball machine or console machine that pays off in  
15 merchandise; and

16 (iii) a machine, apparatus, or device described in item (1) of this  
17 section, regardless of whether the machine, apparatus, or device delivers a game through  
18 the Internet or offers Internet or other services; and

19 (3) "slot machine" does not include a machine, apparatus, or device that:

20 (i) awards the user only free additional games or plays;

21 (ii) awards the user only noncash merchandise or noncash prizes of  
22 minimal value;

23 (iii) dispenses paper pull tab tip jar tickets or paper pull tab instant  
24 bingo tickets that must be opened manually by the user provided that the machine,  
25 apparatus, or device does not:

26 1. read the tickets electronically;

27 2. alert the user to a winning or losing ticket; or

28 3. tabulate a player's winnings and losses;

29 (iv) 1. is a handheld device that displays only facsimiles of bingo  
30 cards that an individual uses to mark and monitor contemporaneously to a live call of bingo  
31 numbers called on the premises by an individual where the user is operating the machine;



1 organization may continue to operate a game of instant bingo in the same manner using  
2 electronic machines, provided that:

3 (1) [(i) the machines were in operation for a 1-year period ending  
4 December 31, 2007; or

5 (ii) the machines were in operation under a commercial bingo license  
6 on December 31, 2007;

7 (2)] the entity does not operate more than TWICE the number of electronic  
8 machines in operation on February 28, 2008; and

9 [(3)] (2) the conduct of the gaming and operation of the machines are  
10 consistent with all other provisions of this article.

11 (B) AN ELECTRONIC MACHINE ALLOWED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS  
12 SECTION IS NOT REQUIRED TO PRINT A PAPER TICKET FOR EACH GAME OF INSTANT  
13 BINGO PLAYED UNLESS THE PLAYER ELECTS TO PRINT THE TICKET.

14 (C) THE STATE LOTTERY AND GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION SHALL  
15 ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

16 **Chapter 603 of the Acts of 2012**

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, a licensee or organization  
18 that is authorized under State law to own or operate electronic bingo machines for use after  
19 July 1, 2012, may repair and replace the authorized electronic bingo machines provided  
20 that the machines operate in the same manner as those in operation by the same  
21 organization as of February 28, 2008[, and that the organization does not operate more  
22 than the number of electronic bingo machines in operation as of February 28, 2008].

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
24 1, 2026.