

Chapter 613

(House Bill 127)

AN ACT concerning

~~Criminal Law~~ Gaming – Home Games

FOR the purpose of allowing an individual who is at least a certain age to conduct a home game involving wagering if the home game is conducted in a certain manner; and generally relating to gaming.

~~BY adding to~~  
~~Article – Criminal Law~~  
~~Section 12-115~~  
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
~~(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)~~

BY adding to  
Article – State Government  
Section 9-1B-01 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 1B. Gaming Laws”  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

~~Article – Criminal Law~~  
Article – State Government

SUBTITLE 1B. GAMING LAWS.

~~12-115.~~ 9-1B-01.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF ~~THIS ARTICLE~~ THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD MAY CONDUCT A HOME GAME INVOLVING WAGERING IF THE HOME GAME:

- (1) IS LIMITED TO MAH JONG OR A CARD GAME;
- (2) IS CONDUCTED NOT MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK:

(I) IN THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY ALSO PARTICIPATE AS A PLAYER IN THE HOME GAME; OR

**(II) IN A COMMON AREA OF A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY THAT IS RESTRICTED TO RESIDENTS WHO ARE AT LEAST 55 YEARS OLD;**

**(3) ALLOWS A PLAYER TO COMPETE DIRECTLY AGAINST ONE OR MORE OTHER PLAYERS WHO SHARE A PREEXISTING SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP;**

**(4) DOES NOT ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL TO BENEFIT FINANCIALLY IN ANY WAY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, OTHER THAN FROM THE WINNINGS ACCRUED BY PARTICIPATING AS A PLAYER IN THE GAME;**

**(5) DOES NOT INVOLVE:**

**(I) A PLAYER'S USE OF AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE THAT CONNECTS TO THE INTERNET;**

**(II) THE USE OF PAID PUBLIC ADVERTISING OR PROMOTIONS;**

**(III) THE CHARGING OF A FEE FOR ADMISSION, A SEAT, ENTERTAINMENT, OR FOOD AND DRINK OR ANY OTHER FEE; OR**

**(IV) THE USE OF ANY MONEY EXCEPT MONEY USED FOR WAGERING; AND**

**(6) HAS A LIMIT OF ~~\$2,000~~ ~~\$500~~ \$1,000 ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY OR, TOKENS REPRESENTING MONEY, OR ANY OTHER THING OR CONSIDERATION OF VALUE THAT MAY BE WAGERED BY ALL PLAYERS DURING ANY 24-HOUR PERIOD.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

**Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2016.**