

Chapter 290

(House Bill 633)

AN ACT concerning

Gaming – Slot Machines – Skills–Based Amusement Devices

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “slot machine” to provide that certain skills–based amusement devices excluded from the definition may award certain objects that do not exceed a certain minimal value per play and may be accumulated and exchanged for merchandise or prizes of a certain value; and generally relating to slot machines and skills–based amusement devices.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 12–301(3)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Criminal Law

12–301.

In this subtitle:

- (3) “slot machine” does not include a machine, apparatus, or device that:
 - (i) awards the user only free additional games or plays;
 - (ii) awards the user only noncash merchandise or noncash prizes of minimal value;
 - (iii) dispenses paper pull tab tip jar tickets or paper pull tab instant bingo tickets that must be opened manually by the user provided that the machine, apparatus, or device does not:
 - 1. read the tickets electronically;
 - 2. alert the user to a winning or losing ticket; or
 - 3. tabulate a player’s winnings and losses;

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

2. does not permit a user to play more than 54 bingo cards at the same time;

3. does not randomly generate any numbers; and

4. is not part of an integrated system;

(v) is used by the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission under Title 9 of the State Government Article;

(vi) if legislation takes effect authorizing the operation of video lottery terminals, is a video lottery terminal as defined in and licensed under that legislation;

(vii) is a skills-based amusement device that awards prizes [of], **MERCHANDISE, TICKETS, TOKENS, OR OTHER OBJECTS THAT:**

1. **PER PLAY, DO NOT EXCEED** minimal value approved by the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission through regulation; [or] **AND**

2. **MAY BE ACCUMULATED AND EXCHANGED FOR NONCASH MERCHANDISE OR PRIZES OF VALUE THAT:**

A. **IS SIMILAR TO THE CUMULATED VALUE OF THE OBJECTS EXCHANGED; AND**

B. **DOES NOT EXCEED A MINIMAL WHOLESALE VALUE OF \$599; OR**

(viii) is a skills-based device that awards noncash merchandise and is located at a family entertainment center in Worcester County licensed under § 9-1B-02 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.