

FCR the purpose of providing for a program of treatment for compulsive gamblers; providing for a pilot project center; ~~providing for grants and funding; establishing an advisory committee; providing for participation by local jurisdictions;~~ and generally relating to a program for compulsive gamblers.

BY adding to

Article 43 - Health
 Section 1K to be under the new subtitle "Compulsive Gambling"
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1971 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 43 - Health

COMPULSIVE GAMBLING

1K.

(A) THE LEGISLATURE FINDS AND DECLARES:

(1) THAT COMPULSIVE GAMBLING IS A SERIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEM AND THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT AVAILABILITY OF GAMBLING INCREASES THE RISK OF BECOMING A COMPULSIVE GAMBLER; AND

(2) THAT MARYLAND WITH ITS EXTENSIVE LEGALIZED GAMBLING HAS AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE A PROGRAM OF TREATMENT FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO BECOME ADDICTED TO GAMBLING TO THE EXTENT THAT IT SERIOUSLY DISRUPTS LIVES AND FAMILIES.

(B) (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE.

(2) "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE.

(3) "COMPULSIVE GAMBLER" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS CHRONICALLY AND PROGRESSIVELY PREOCCUPIED WITH GAMBLING AND THE URGE TO GAMBLE, WITH GAMBLING BEHAVIOR THAT COMPROMISES, DISRUPTS, OR DAMAGES PERSONAL, FAMILY, OR VOCATIONAL PURSUITS.

(C) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH AS A PILOT PROJECT ONE CENTER FOR COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS IN A LOCATION ACCESSIBLE TO A MAJOR POPULATION CENTER OF THE STATE AS DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY. THE SECRETARY MAY MAKE GRANTS FROM STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS OR ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS FOR THE USE OF THE FUNDS TO ASSIST PUBLIC OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE CENTER AND LOCAL