

(A) THE GOVERNING BODY OF ALLEGANY COUNTY SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH AN OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A VIDEO LOTTERY FACILITY THAT LOCATES IN ALLEGANY COUNTY FOR A NEGOTIATED PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES ON THE VIDEO LOTTERY FACILITY.

(B) AN AGREEMENT FOR A NEGOTIATED PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE THAT, FOR THE TERM SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT:

(1) A SPECIFIED AMOUNT SHALL BE PAID TO ALLEGANY COUNTY IN LIEU OF THE PAYMENT OF ALLEGANY COUNTY PROPERTY TAX; AND

(2) ALL OR A SPECIFIED PART OF THE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE VIDEO LOTTERY FACILITY SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM ALLEGANY COUNTY PROPERTY TAX FOR THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the intent of this Act and its various integrated provisions is to provide for the authorization and regulation of certain gaming devices for the purpose of generating State revenues and other funds for specified purposes, including funding educational facility construction and renovation and assisting the State's racing industry. This section is not intended to detract from the application of the severability provision contained in Section 2 of this Act or from the ability of a court of competent jurisdiction to consider and apply appropriate severability principles in the event of a judicial challenge to the validity of a specific portion or portions of the bill.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the agency designated by the Board of Public Works under § 14-303(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article, in consultation with the General Assembly and the Office of the Attorney General, shall initiate two studies of the requirements of § 9-1A-10 of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, that evaluate the continued compliance of the requirement with any federal and constitutional requirements. In preparation for the studies, the State Lottery Commission shall require video lottery operation license applicants and licensees to provide any information necessary to perform the study. The studies shall also evaluate race-neutral programs or other methods that can be used to address the needs of minority investors and minority