HOUSE BILL 961

C7 0lr0539

By: ~~**Delegate Reilly**~~ **Harford County Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2020
Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 10, 2020

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Harford County – Gaming – Home Games – Bingo

FOR the purpose of adding bingo in Harford County to the list of home games that an individual may conduct in a common area of a residential property under certain circumstances; and generally relating to gaming.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 9–1C–01
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – State Government

9–1C–01.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of 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) except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, is limited to mah jong or a card game;

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

(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 $1,000 on the total amount of money, tokens representing money, or any other thing or consideration of value that may be wagered by all players during any 24–hour period.

(b) In Carroll County **OR IN HARFORD COUNTY**, a home game authorized under subsection (a) of this section may include bingo if it is conducted in a common area of a residential property that is restricted to residents who are at least 55 years old.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.