

~~Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article – Criminal Law~~

~~Section 12-108.1~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Criminal Law

Section 12-301 and 13-101

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2002 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Criminal Law

Section 12-302

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2002 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

#### Preamble

~~WHEREAS, Although 37 states have authorized the use of slot machines, Maryland, with the narrow exception of qualified nonprofit organizations in eight Eastern Shore counties, has long prohibited a person from locating, possessing, keeping, or operating a slot machine; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Despite a clear prohibition in State law as to the use of slot machines and similar gaming devices, the use, possession, and operation of electronic gaming devices and machines has expanded throughout the State on a massive scale under the pretext of bingo, tip jars, and other gaming activities without any State authorization, oversight, or regulation; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In many instances these electronic gaming devices are so similar in appearance and operation to slot machines that the contention that they are not slot machines is absurd and has caused confusion among the members of the public as well as law enforcement officers who are charged with upholding the State laws prohibiting the unauthorized operation of slot machines; and~~

~~WHEREAS, When the State legislature granted persons the opportunity to conduct bingo, instant bingo, or other forms of gambling, the legislature did not contemplate or intend that the games would be played on technologically advanced electronic gaming devices similar in appearance and player operation to slot machines; and~~