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See BRITAIN, A1, Col. 1.

See DEFENSE, A10, Col. 1.

800 Slot Machines on Way Out

Ban on Billboards, Potomac Gaming Approved by Maryland Delegates

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By Lawrence Stern
Staff Reporter

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 26
Bills to ban advertising sign-
boards on Maryland express-
ways and to outlaw gambling
along Virginia's side of the
Potomac won overwhelming
approval tonight in the House.
Both controversial measures
were sent to the Senate for
final action.
The prohibition on bill-
boards was the first roadside
control bill to pass either
house in the history of the
General Assembly. Delegates
approved it by a 104-10 vote.
It would ban outdoor adver-
tising within 600 feet of such

highways as new U. S. 240, the
Washington - Baltimore Park-
way and future Washington
Circumferential Belt.

Leading the fight for pas-
sage was Del. Blair Lee III
(D-Mont.) who said the new
measure would resolve the
"massive conflict of interests"
which has surrounded previous
roadside control fights in the
legislature.

The anti-casino bill, which
passed the House 108-8, would
wipe out 800 slot machines in
seven Maryland licensed es-
tablishments now operating
off Virginia's shoreline.

Before approving it, the

House beat down two moves to
delay action by Dels. John W.
Jenkins (R-Charles) and Thom-
as J. Hatem (D-Harford). Only
suburban Washington legisla-
tor to oppose the casino ban
was Del. Perry O. Wilkinson
(D-Prince Georges). Final
passage came after Del. John
T. Parran (D-Charles) pleaded
that passage of the bill would
restore "the good name of our
county and state." Gov. Theo-
dore R. McKeldin and Virginia
authorities have attacked the
offshore gambling operations
as a flouting of Virginia's
laws against slot machines and
whisky by the drink.

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Gambling Ship Creditors Act to Collect Debts

Creditors of the gambling ship, Enterprise, at Freestone Point, Va., last week voted to take over its operation until they can collect more than a half million dollars in claimed debts. Meanwhile, four suits have been filed in Arlington Circuit Court against the Freestone corporation. They ask for judgments totaling more than \$88,000.

At a meeting here last week, creditors approved a plan to take control of the controversial riverside amusement place in Prince William County until the debts are satisfied. The plan is subject to approval by the stockholders.

About 165 claims, ranging from \$75 to \$210,000, are involved.

The move voted at the Washington meeting calls for a series of debentures—bonds backed only by the general credit of the enterprise—to be issued to the creditors.

The debentures, carrying an interest rate and payable at various dates up to five years, could be converted into stock. The corporation will have the privilege of paying off in advance.

Plan New Company

The creditors would take immediate control of the board of directors. Meanwhile, a new company would be set up with new stock which would wipe out the old Freestone Corporation

drink, along with such sum-
mertime attractions as swim-
ming and wading pools and a
picnic area.

Virginia law forbids both the
gambling and the liquor sales.
However, the ship is moored in
Maryland-owned waters, up to
the high-water mark of the
Virginia shore. The licenses
were issued in Charles County,
Md.

Governors Protest

The Governors of both
States have protested the open-
ing of the Freestone enter-
prise, which joined six casino
piers built out along the Vir-
ginia shore.

In Arlington, three business
concerns filed motions for
judgment, claiming unpaid bills
for material and labor. They
are Bernard H. Putziger, Pad-
dock Co., \$48,648, for swimming
pool work; Eugene W. Zim-
merman, electrical contractor,
\$35,270; and Powell & Co.,
\$2,212, for kitchen work.

A fourth suit was filed by
John L. Albrittain, 403 Fair-
chester drive, Fairfax, claim-
ing that Freestone owes him

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