

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY
DIVISION OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Date: March 27, 2013

Contact: Kimberly H. Chandler - (302) 632-7060

**Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement Arrests Vendor for
Second Time for Supplying Illegal Gambling Devices**

Suspect and Charge Information:

Michael J. Strickland, 38, of Berlin, Maryland

Charges: Being Concerned in Interest in Keeping a Gambling Device
 Carry On Occupation Without a License
 Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax
 Possession of Untaxed Cigarettes

Bail: \$6,500.00 unsecured

Date of Arrest: March 25, 2013

A 28-year-old Maryland man accused of providing illegal gambling machines to area businesses was arrested by the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (DATE) for a second time in less than a month. Michael J. Strickland of Eastern Coin Machine Company in Maryland was arrested last month for providing illegal machines to an area bar and now faces additional charges following a recent traffic stop by the Delaware State Police (DSP).

DSP contacted DATE advising that Strickland was in possession of several cartons of untaxed cigarettes and a possible gambling machine. The trooper arrested Strickland and turned him over to DATE. DATE agents searched Strickland's vehicle locating 66 packs of untaxed cigarettes. The machine inside the truck was determined to be a legal non-gambling game. During the search, agents also discovered financial and business records indicating that Strickland and the Eastern Coin Machine Company was continuing to operate in Delaware and was distributing illegal gambling machines to another Sussex County restaurant. Following up on the records found in Strickland's vehicle, agents located three additional illegal slot-type gambling machines in Charlie's Bayside Restaurant & Bar in Fenwick Island. A second search warrant was executed at that location and those machines were seized.

The investigation also revealed that Eastern Coin Machine Company has been conducting business in Delaware for several years without a Delaware business license. Strickland was charged with Being Concerned in Interest in Keeping a Gambling Device, Carry On Occupation Without a License, Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax, and Possession of Untaxed Cigarettes.

The investigation is ongoing and any entity that has conducted business with Eastern Coin Machine Company, or has further information is urged to contact DATE Lt. Kevin Jones at (302) 741-2717.

END



