

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 274 (Senator Ready)
Budget and Taxation

Carroll County - Coin Operated Games - Repeal of Licensing Requirements

This bill repeals the licensing requirements for coin operated games in the Public Local Laws of Carroll County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: Carroll County finances are not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Before keeping, maintaining, or operating a coin operated game for public entertainment in Carroll County, a person, corporation, or other entity must obtain the appropriate license from the Carroll County Board of County Commissioners. A coin operated game is an amusement device that is operated or activated by coins or tokens, including a bowling or pinball machine, an electronic or video game, or other similar device. A license is transferable and expires on April 30 each year. A person, corporation, or other entity who violates licensing requirements is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine of up to \$1,000. A person convicted of violating licensing requirements may also be imprisoned in the Carroll County jail for up to 60 days.

A skills-based amusement device that awards prizes of a minimal value, as approved by State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission (SLGCC) regulation, is not a slot machine.

SLGCC must certify and regulate the operation, ownership, and manufacture of certain electronic gaming devices and determine whether such devices are legal and lawfully operated. If SLGCC does not make a determination that a county's licensing and regulatory process for electronic gaming devices is equivalent to the State process or that a county license for owning, operating, or manufacturing an electronic gaming device in that county is equivalent to a State license, then the regulations and licensing requirements of SLGCC supersede the application of any county fees or regulations and licensing requirements for electronic gaming or any requirement of a county license for owning, operating, or manufacturing an electronic gaming device. SLGCC does not currently collect fees associated with amusement devices.

Background: Carroll County received \$3,339 in licensing revenues from coin operated games in fiscal 2016 and \$1,845 in fiscal 2017. The licensing fee is \$75, but Carroll County stopped issuing licenses on October 1, 2017.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 641 (Carroll County Delegation) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Carroll County; Comptroller's Office; Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Department of Legislative Services

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