

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 404 (Senator Eckardt)
Budget and Taxation

Home Gaming - Bunco

This bill adds the game of bunco to the list of games authorized as a home game.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. No longer assessing monetary and/or incarceration penalties for bunco home game violations does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None. It is assumed that incarceration penalties for bunco home game violations are rarely assessed, so local finances are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual who is at least 21 years old may conduct a home game involving wagering if the home game (1) is limited to mah jong or a card game; (2) is conducted not more than once a week in the individual's home or in a common area of a residential property that is restricted to residents age 55 or older; (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; and (5) has a \$1,000 limit 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. The home game may not involve a player's use of an electronic device that connects to the Internet, the use of paid public advertising or promotions, the charging of specified fees, or the use of any money except money used for wagering.

A person who violates betting, wagering, and gambling laws is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment for six months to one year and/or a fine ranging from \$200 to \$1,000.

A person who commits a violation in Baltimore City may be charged by a citation, which may be issued to a person by a police officer authorized to make arrests in Baltimore City if there is probable cause to believe that the person is committing or has committed a violation. The citation must contain specified information, and the police officer who issued the citation must forward a copy of the citation to the appropriate court. The court must promptly schedule the case for trial and schedule the defendant to appear. Willful failure of the defendant to respond to the summons is contempt of court.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 581 (Delegate Carozza, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

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

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