

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 530

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Ways and Means

Budget and Taxation

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**St. Mary's County - Gaming - Administration of Bingo Licenses**

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This bill requires the St. Mary's County Commissioners to designate a person (designee) to administer the issuance of certain bingo licenses in the county. The bill transfers various bingo administration duties under current law from the county sheriff to the designee. The sheriff remains among the specified officials (including the designee) who may examine records that must be kept by qualified organizations of proceeds and expenditures involving gaming devices. The commissioners may adopt regulations, in consultation with the designee, to administer and enforce bingo activities in the county.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The State does not administer local charitable gaming laws.

**Local Effect:** Negligible. The transfer within St. Mary's County of responsibility for bingo administration does not materially affect county finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A qualified organization in St. Mary's County may conduct a gaming event for the exclusive benefit of a qualified organization if an individual or a group of individuals does not benefit financially from the gaming event or receive any of the proceeds from the gaming event for personal use or benefit. For purposes of conducting bingo in St. Mary's County, qualified organizations include volunteer fire companies and *bona fide* religious, fraternal, civic, war veterans', and charitable organizations.

Before a qualified organization may conduct bingo in St. Mary's County, the organization must obtain a license from the county sheriff, who in addition to issuing licenses must charge for each license an annual fee as set by the county commissioners. A qualified organization must keep accurate records of proceeds and expenditures involving gaming devices. On request, a qualified organization must allow the State's Attorney for the county, a State police officer, and the sheriff or deputy sheriff to examine these records.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** St. Mary's County advises that approximately 12 bingo licenses are issued per year and that an office within county government can absorb the task of bingo license administration with current staff, and thus the bill's requirements can be handled with existing resources. It is assumed that though the county sheriff's office is relieved of responsibility for licensing bingo activities in the county, the operations and staffing of the county sheriff's office are not materially affected.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's County; Comptroller's Office; Department of State Police; Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 28, 2021  
rh/jrb Third Reader - March 19, 2021

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Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510