
By: Senator Amoss

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cecil County - Casino Nights**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing volunteer fire companies in Cecil County to hold casino
4 nights under certain conditions; requiring a person to have a permit issued by the
5 Sheriff of Cecil County before holding a casino night; requiring the Sheriff to issue
6 a permit to each qualified volunteer fire company; prohibiting the Sheriff from
7 issuing more than a certain number of permits to a single volunteer fire company in
8 one month; requiring that a volunteer fire company that holds a casino night to
9 manage, conduct, and operate the games and gaming devices only by certain
10 persons; prohibiting the payment of compensation to certain persons; requiring that
11 the net proceeds of a casino night be allocated for a certain purpose; requiring that
12 a volunteer fire company that holds a casino night to make available for inspection
13 certain records; prohibiting certain acts; providing certain penalties; defining
14 certain terms; and generally relating to casino nights in Cecil County.

15 BY adding to

16 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
17 Section 258C
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

23 258C.

24 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
25 INDICATED.

26 (2) "CASINO NIGHT" MEANS A BENEFIT PERFORMANCE AT WHICH CARD
27 GAMES, WHEELS OF CHANCE, OR ROULETTE ARE PLAYED AND MONEY WINNINGS
28 OR TOKENS REDEEMABLE IN MONEY ARE AWARDED AS PRIZES.

29 (3) "COUNTY" MEANS CECIL COUNTY.

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1 (4) "SHERIFF" MEANS THE SHERIFF OF CECIL COUNTY OR THE
2 SHERIFF'S DESIGNEE.

3 (B) NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE MAY BE CONSTRUED TO MAKE IT UNLAWFUL
4 TO HOLD A CASINO NIGHT IN CECIL COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

5 (C) A PERSON MUST HAVE A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE SHERIFF BEFORE THE
6 PERSON MAY HOLD A CASINO NIGHT.

7 (D) TO QUALIFY FOR A PERMIT TO HOLD A CASINO NIGHT, AN APPLICANT
8 SHALL BE A BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY IN THE COUNTY.

9 (E) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SHERIFF
10 SHALL ISSUE A PERMIT TO EACH QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY THAT
11 SUBMITS TO THE SHERIFF AN APPLICATION ON THE FORM THAT THE SHERIFF
12 PROVIDES AND PAYS TO THE SHERIFF AN APPLICATION FEE THAT THE SHERIFF
13 DETERMINES.

14 (2) THE SHERIFF MAY NOT ISSUE MORE THAN TWO PERMITS IN ONE
15 MONTH TO ANY SINGLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY.

16 (F) (1) A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY THAT CONDUCTS A CASINO NIGHT
17 SHALL MANAGE, CONDUCT, AND OPERATE THE GAMES AND GAMING DEVICES USED
18 IN THE CASINO NIGHT BY THE REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE
19 COMPANY WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL WORKERS.

20 (2) A COMMISSION, SALARY, OR OTHER COMPENSATION MAY NOT BE
21 PAID TO ANY PERSON FOR HOLDING OR ASSISTING IN THE HOLDING OF A CASINO
22 NIGHT.

23 (G) ALL NET PROCEEDS THAT A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OBTAINS FROM
24 A CASINO NIGHT SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO PURCHASING EQUIPMENT TO BE USED
25 BY THE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR MAINTAINING EQUIPMENT OR OTHER
26 PROPERTY IN SERVICE.

27 (H) ON REQUEST OF THE SHERIFF OR THE STATE'S ATTORNEY, A
28 VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY THAT CONDUCTS A CASINO NIGHT SHALL MAKE
29 AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION RECORDS THAT CONTAIN:

30 (1) THE TOTAL GROSS RECEIPTS AND TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THE
31 CASINO NIGHT; AND

32 (2) THE DISBURSEMENTS MADE FROM THE NET PROCEEDS.

33 (I) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY MAKE A FALSE OR FRAUDULENT
34 REPRESENTATION IN A PERMIT APPLICATION, RECORD, OR OTHER DOCUMENT
35 REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.

36 (J) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (K) OF THIS SECTION, THE SHERIFF MAY DENY A
37 PERMIT TO ANY APPLICANT OR SUSPEND OR REVOKE A PERMIT IF THE APPLICANT
38 OR HOLDER OF THE PERMIT VIOLATES ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION.

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1 (K) (1) AN APPLICANT OR HOLDER OF A PERMIT SHALL BE NOTIFIED BY
2 REGISTERED MAIL OF AN ACTION TAKEN BY THE SHERIFF UNDER SUBSECTION (J)
3 OF THIS SECTION.

4 (2) THE APPLICANT OR HOLDER OF A PERMIT SHALL HAVE 30 DAYS
5 AFTER RECEIVING THE NOTICE TO APPEAL THE DECISION IN WRITING TO THE
6 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 1996.