

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2003 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1130  
Ways and Means

(Washington County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Washington County - Gaming Commission - Tip Jar Gaming**

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This bill extends to July 1, 2005 current law concerning the Washington County Gaming Fund that is subject to abrogation effective July 1, 2003 and adds new language that: (1) prohibits the Washington County Gaming Commission from distributing a total of more than \$100,000 in any year to an applicant per application for money from the fund containing tip jar gaming gross profits; and (2) prohibits the gaming commission from distributing more than \$50,000 to an applicant per application if the gaming commission makes two distributions in a year to the applicant. The bill also extends to July 1, 2005 the effective date of abrogated law scheduled to become effective on July 1, 2003. The bill repeals the requirement that the gaming commission report to the Washington County Delegation every six months, on or before January 31 and July 31, on how recipients of tip jar profits have been affected by changes to the distribution formula of tip jar profits.

The bill is effective July 1, 2003.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Washington County finances would not be directly affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Until June 30, 2003, the Washington County Gaming Commission is prohibited from distributing more than \$50,000 to each applicant per application from

funds generated by tip jar gaming. Beginning July 1, 2003, there is no provision of law in abrogated language concerning the amount of money from the gaming fund that may be distributed to authorized applicants.

Every six months, on or before January 31 and July 31, the gaming commission must report to the county delegation how recipients of tip jar gaming profits have been affected by the formula for distributing tip jar profits.

**Background:** Washington County advises that the Washington County Gaming Commission has changed its distribution procedure from two distributions per year to one distribution per year.

Authorized applicants for tip jar gaming profits in Washington County include the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and bona fide charitable organizations in the county. Washington County advises that there are a minimum of 75 applicants annually for tip jar gaming funds and that approximately \$1.1 million is distributed each year. The county further advises that tip jar gaming funds are used by applicants primarily for capital projects, new services offered by charitable organizations, and the expansion of existing services by charitable organizations to new areas in the county.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 19, 2003  
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