

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 105
Ways and Means

(Delegate Simmons, *et al.*)

Election Law - Campaign Contributions by Persons Authorized by the State to Engage in Gaming Activity - Prohibition

This bill prohibits direct and indirect contributions to a State candidate, political party, or other campaign finance entity organized in support of a State candidate or political party, by persons and entities involved in gaming activity in the State. The bill also defines “gaming activity,” “key employee,” and “video lottery terminal.”

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect governmental operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill prohibits the following individuals and entities from making contributions to State candidates, political parties, or any other campaign finance entities organized in support of State candidates or political parties:

- an applicant for a license to engage in gaming activity in the State;
- an individual authorized to engage in gaming activity in the State;
- a key employee, holding company, intermediary company, or a subsidiary company of an applicant for a license to engage in gaming activity or an individual authorized to engage in gaming activity in the State; and

- a person entitled by contract to receive any proceeds from the gaming operations of any applicant or a person authorized to engage in gaming activity in the State.

The bill also defines the following terms:

“*Gaming Activity*” – A video lottery terminal or a casino authorized by the State.

“*Key Employee*” – An individual who, acting as an agent or employee of a person or licensee, supervises more than two agents or employees of the person or licensee authorized to engage in gaming activity in the State.

“*Video Lottery Terminal*” – Any electronic contrivance, machine, or other device that, on insertion of a coin, token, or similar object, or on payment of any consideration, is available to play or operate, the play or operation of which, only by application of the element of chance, may deliver or entitle the player who operates the device to receive cash, premiums, merchandise, tokens, or anything of value, whether or not the payout is made automatically from the device or in any other manner.

The bill exempts gaming activity that an eligible organization is authorized to conduct under the criminal law article.

Current Law: The election code prohibits: (1) anonymous contributions; (2) contributions made by a person or entity other than the maker of a check; (3) contributions made during the legislative session; and (4) contributions from State funded entities. Other than statutory restrictions on acceptance of money received from the sale of a spin or chance, there are no provisions restricting contributions from individuals or entities involved in gaming activity.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Board of Elections, State Ethics Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2003
mdf/cer

Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

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