

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 437
Ways and Means

(Montgomery County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Montgomery County Bingo Prizes
MC 511-05

This bill increases from \$500 to \$1,000 the maximum prize per game of bingo that may be awarded by a qualifying organization in Montgomery County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Increasing the maximum prize would not materially affect Montgomery County operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Qualified organizations can conduct bingo, including the sale of instant bingo tickets on bingo nights, in Montgomery County if they receive a license from the county. The maximum award per game of bingo is \$500. Qualified organizations must be a bona fide nonprofit organization and include volunteer fire companies and rescue squads and religious, fraternal, patriotic, educational, and charitable organizations.

Bingo can only be conducted for charity or for the benefit of the qualified organization. The person conducting bingo must be a county resident and a member of the qualified organization, and cannot benefit financially from conducting the game. A qualified organization cannot conduct bingo more than twice in any week and must keep accurate

records for two years of all transactions that occur during a bingo game. These records must be made available on request to specified county and State officials and agencies.

None of these provisions applies to bingo conducted at the annual Montgomery County Fair for the benefit of the Montgomery County Agricultural Center.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2005
n/hlb

Analysis by: Robert J. Rehrmann

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