

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1391  
Ways and Means

(Delegates McDonough and Impallaria)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Harford County - Gaming - Political Fundraising**

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This bill authorizes a political committee in Harford County to conduct a fundraiser at which money or merchandise is awarded in a gaming event or 50/50. The prizes may not exceed the amounts otherwise allowed for a prize in the county.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Any effect on Harford County finances is expected to be minimal.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A political committee is a combination of two or more individuals that assists or attempts to assist in promoting the success or defeat of a candidate, political party, or question submitted to a vote in any election.

In Harford County, a gaming event is defined as bingo, a raffle, or a paddle wheel. The game of 50/50 is a drawing from a finite number of chances in which the proceeds from the sale of chances are split evenly between the winners and the organizers conducting the games.

Organizations eligible to conduct a gaming event or 50/50 include bona fide religious groups, volunteer fire companies, and nonprofit organizations that raise money for a

charitable, athletic, or educational purpose. The organization must obtain a license from the county sheriff before conducting a gaming event, but may conduct a game of 50/50 without a license.

The maximum money prize permitted for these events is as follows:

- \$50 for bingo, or \$1,000 for a bingo jackpot;
- \$50 for members-only instant bingo;
- \$10 for a paddle wheel;
- \$50 for a game of 50/50; and
- \$1,000 for a raffle, except an organization may hold a raffle with a prize not to exceed \$10,000 once a year.

A person that violates a provision of the Harford County gaming statutes is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to maximum penalties of imprisonment for 30 days and/or a fine of \$1,000.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 926 (Senator Harris) – Judicial Proceedings.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 19, 2007  
ncs/rhh

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