

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1278
Ways and Means

(Carroll County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Carroll County - Bingo and Gaming Events - Qualified Organizations

This bill repeals a restriction that an organization must be located in Carroll County in order to conduct bingo or a gaming event in Carroll County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Any increase in licensing fees due to more organizations eligible to conduct gaming events in Carroll County is expected to be minimal.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Qualified organizations located in Carroll County can conduct gaming events in Carroll County if they receive a permit from the county commissioners. For purposes of conducting a gaming event, qualified organizations include hospitals, volunteer fire companies, and bona fide religious, amateur athletic, fraternal, civic, war veterans, and charitable organizations. Permitted gaming events include raffles, paddle wheels, carnival games, and other games of entertainment. However, card games, dice games, and roulette are prohibited.

Before a qualified organization located in Carroll County may conduct bingo in Carroll County, the organization must obtain a permit from the county commissioners. For purposes of conducting bingo, qualified organizations include volunteer fire companies,

senior center site councils, and bona fide religious, amateur athletic, fraternal, civic, war veterans, and charitable organizations.

Generally, the maximum prize awarded at a gaming event may not exceed \$100 in value. Prizes of up to \$250 are permitted for special bingo games, such as progressive pot games, and up to \$1,000 for bingo jackpots. Under Chapter 404 of 2004, qualified organization are permitted to hold up to 6 raffles per year where the major prize awarded is greater than \$2,500, or 10 raffles per year where the prize is less than \$2,500.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 868 (Senator Haines, *et al.*) – Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): N Secretary of State, Carroll County, Department of Legislative

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

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