

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 479
Ways and Means

(Delegate Costa, *et al.*)

Anne Arundel County - Gaming - Casino Events

This bill repeals a prohibition against a nonprofit organization conducting a casino event in Anne Arundel County.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County advises that any additional workload for the Anne Arundel County Department of Inspections and Permits could be handled with existing resources. If regulations adopted by the Department of Inspections and Permits provide for a permit fee, revenues could increase.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill enables a qualified organization in Anne Arundel County to conduct one casino event that includes a card game each calendar month, and one casino event that includes roulette during each calendar year.

To conduct a casino event, an organization must be a bona fide religious, fraternal, civic, war veterans', charitable organization, or a volunteer fire company.

A person that holds a casino event may not offer or award prize money to players, allow a player to bet more than \$10 in any one card game or roulette spin, or exchange tokens used in wagering for an item worth more than \$1,000.

The Anne Arundel County Department of Inspections and Permits must adopt regulations to govern the issuing of permits to conduct casino events, and the conduct and management of such events. Permit holders must submit a financial report after holding a casino event to the county police and the Department of Inspections and Permits.

Current Law: A person may not conduct a casino event in Anne Arundel County. A “casino event” means any event that involves a card game, dice game, or roulette game; it does not include a card game or dice game that is played for tokens for which no cash prize is offered or awarded.

In about 15 counties, qualified organizations, including volunteer fire departments and religious, fraternal, civic, veterans’, and charitable organizations may sponsor gaming events. These include carnivals, bazaars, and raffles where games of chance that award prizes are played. Counties are responsible for selling licenses to organizations that wish to sponsor gaming events, and for regulating gaming activities, but they are not required to establish specific commissions or other mechanisms for carrying out their regulatory responsibilities. Casino events similar to those authorized in this bill are permitted in Baltimore County.

Background: Anne Arundel County authorized qualified nonprofit organizations to hold casino events prior under former Art. 27 §255(h)(3). Such events were prohibited in 1997.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

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