

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 740
Ways and Means

(Harford County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Harford County - Gaming

This bill requires the Sheriff of Harford County to charge \$10 for a 50/50 license and requires specified organizations to have a 50/50 license in order to conduct a 50/50 game except for a game held at a meeting of the organization. The bill also increases from \$50 to \$500 the maximum money prize for a 50/50 game, a bingo game; and a members-only instant bingo game.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues could increase minimally from collection of \$10 50/50 licensing fees.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Harford County, four classes of organizations can obtain a license to conduct certain types of gaming: particular religious groups; state and nationally chartered veterans organizations; volunteer fire companies; and specified nonprofit, charitable organizations.

The Harford County Sheriff charges the following license fees: \$5 for a bingo license; \$10 for a paddle wheel license; \$10 for a raffle licenses; and \$15 for a members-only instant bingo license.

Prize money for a bingo game may not exceed \$50 or \$1,000 for a jackpot. Prize money for a members-only instant bingo game may not exceed \$50.

Qualifying organizations that hold a 50/50 game may conduct the game if the game is held at a meeting of the organization and prize money does not exceed \$50. Minors may not participate.

Background: Each county is responsible for regulating gaming activities conducted by civic and charitable organizations. There is no statewide reporting of gaming activities by civic and charitable organizations, except for the slot machines operated on the Eastern Shore. Gaming licensees may use the proceeds of gaming activities for the benefit of their own organizations, but do not need to share them with other organizations. However, slot machine operators must use half of the proceeds from slot machines to benefit a charity.

State gaming law requirements currently apply to 15 counties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 732 (Harford County Senators) – Judicial Proceedings.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2008
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