

HOUSE BILL 773

C7

9lr2196
CF SB 572

By: **Delegates Conway and Mathias**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2009

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Worcester County – Gaming – Bingo**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing certain fees for bingo conducted in Worcester County;
4 increasing certain maximum prizes offered in bingo; repealing a prohibition
5 against conducting bingo outside a certain area; specifying that a certain game
6 may be played without a prize limit; repealing a prohibition against conducting
7 bingo on Sunday; repealing a prohibition against certain forms of advertising for
8 bingo; authorizing all forms of advertising for bingo under certain
9 circumstances; and generally relating to bingo conducted in Worcester County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Criminal Law
12 Section 13–2602
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2002 Volume and 2008 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Criminal Law
17 Section 13–2610 and 13–2611
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2002 Volume and 2008 Supplement)

20 BY repealing
21 Article – Criminal Law
22 Section 13–2612
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2002 Volume and 2008 Supplement)

25 BY adding to
26 Article – Criminal Law
27 Section 13–2612

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2002 Volume and 2008 Supplement)

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

5 **Article – Criminal Law**

6 13–2602.

7 This subtitle applies only in Worcester County.

8 13–2610.

9 (a) An organization or municipal corporation described in § 13–2606 of this
10 subtitle that intends to conduct bingo under this part must obtain:

11 (1) an annual license to conduct bingo for more than 15 days in a year;
12 or

13 (2) a temporary license to conduct bingo for 15 days or fewer in a year.

14 (b) (1) An applicant for a license shall submit to the board an application
15 on the form that the board by regulation requires.

16 (2) The application form shall require:

17 (i) the name of the applicant;

18 (ii) the name of each principal officer of the applicant; and

19 (iii) a certification that no person will conduct bingo except a
20 person who:

21 1. is a salaried employee or bona fide member of the
22 applicant; and

23 2. shall not receive any form of commission or bonus.

24 (c) (1) An applicant shall pay to the board a license fee of:

25 (i) \$100 for an annual license; or

26 (ii) ~~[\$3]~~ **\$25 IN ADDITION TO \$5** for each day bingo is
27 conducted for a temporary license.

28 (2) The board shall pay to the county commissioners all license fees
29 collected under this part.

1 (d) The board shall issue a license to each applicant who meets the
2 requirements of this part and the regulations adopted under this part.

3 [(e) A license may not be issued to an applicant to conduct bingo outside the
4 election district in which the main office, headquarters, or usual meeting place of the
5 applicant is located.]

6 [(f) (E) If an applicant conducts bingo on premises that are leased by the
7 applicant, the lease agreement must be approved by the board before a license may be
8 issued.

9 [(g) (F) The board may deny a license to an applicant or suspend or revoke
10 a license if the applicant or licensee has violated this part or any regulation adopted
11 under this part.

12 13–2611.

13 (a) The charge for admission to a place in order to participate in bingo
14 conducted under this part may not exceed [~~\$1~~] **\$5**.

15 (b) (1) Except as provided in [paragraph (2)] **PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3)**
16 of this subsection, the value of a prize in money, merchandise, or services for any one
17 game of bingo conducted under this part may not exceed [~~\$50~~] **\$200**.

18 (2) Jackpot prizes may be offered in a maximum amount of [~~\$1,000~~]
19 **\$5,000**.

20 (3) **“WINNER TAKE ALL” GAMES MAY BE OFFERED WITHOUT A**
21 **PRIZE LIMIT.**

22 (c) A licensee’s employees and the terms of their employment must be
23 approved by the board before they may conduct bingo under this part.

24 (d) A minor may not be allowed to participate in bingo conducted under this
25 part.

26 [(e) Bingo may not be conducted under this part on Sunday.]

27 [(f) (E) Bingo may not be conducted under this part in a room or area
28 where alcoholic beverages are sold or served during the game.

29 [(g) (F) A licensee under this part may not conduct bingo on more than 125
30 days in a year.

31 [13–2612.

1 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person may not
2 advertise the location or time of bingo, or the prizes awarded or to be awarded, by:

3 (1) radio, television, or sound systems;

4 (2) billboards, posters, or handbills; or

5 (3) any other means addressed to the public.

6 (b) (1) Unless otherwise prohibited by county or municipal law, one sign
7 not exceeding 36 square feet, stating that bingo will be conducted, may be displayed on
8 or adjacent to the premises where bingo will be conducted.

9 (2) In accordance with regulations adopted under § 13-2608 of this
10 subtitle, notice that bingo will be conducted may be posted on a bulletin board or
11 included on a poster inside a hotel, motel, restaurant, or store that is located in the
12 election district in which the game will be conducted.]

13 **13-2612.**

14 **UNLESS OTHERWISE PROHIBITED BY COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL LAW, ALL**
15 **FORMS OF ADVERTISING FOR BINGO ARE ALLOWED.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 July 1, 2009.