

## **CHAPTER 415**

**(House Bill 773)**

AN ACT concerning

### **Worcester County – Gaming – Bingo**

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

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Criminal Law  
Section 13–2602  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2002 Volume and 2008 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Criminal Law  
Section 13–2610 and 13–2611  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2002 Volume and 2008 Supplement)

BY repealing

Article – Criminal Law  
Section 13–2612  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2002 Volume and 2008 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Criminal Law  
Section 13–2612  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2002 Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

### **Article – Criminal Law**

13-2602.

This subtitle applies only in Worcester County.

13-2610.

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

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

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

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

(2) The application form shall require:

(i) the name of the applicant;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13-2611.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[13-2612.

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

- (1) radio, television, or sound systems;
- (2) billboards, posters, or handbills; or
- (3) any other means addressed to the public.

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

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

**13-2612.**

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

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

**Approved by the Governor, May 7, 2009.**