

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 215 (Calvert County Delegation)
Ways and Means

Calvert County - Gaming Events - Bingo and Raffles

This bill allows qualified organizations in Calvert County to conduct a bingo game or a raffle without a permit if the event is not an instant bingo game, does not use pull tabs, and is conducted in conformance with State gaming event law. The bill also adds bona fide educational organizations to the set of qualified organizations that may conduct a gaming event in the county.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Minimal. Calvert County revenue from gaming permit fees may decrease.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State gaming event law applies to 15 counties including Calvert County. It provides that a qualified organization may conduct a gaming event for the exclusive benefit of a qualified organization if an individual or group of individuals does not receive proceeds from the event or otherwise benefit financially from the gaming event. The organization must manage the gaming event personally through its members and may award a prize in money or in merchandise at a gaming event using any gaming device, including a paddle wheel, a wheel of fortune, a chance book, or bingo.

In Calvert County, qualified organizations include volunteer fire companies and bona fide: religious; fraternal; civic; war veterans'; and charitable organizations. The organization must obtain a permit from the county commissioners before conducting a gaming event. The county commissioners may charge a reasonable fee for a permit, and the permit must state the nature of any gaming device to be operated at the event and the frequency with which the gaming event will be conducted.

Background: The State Lottery Agency advises that in fiscal 2008, Calvert County issued 26 gaming permits to qualified organizations.

Educational organizations may conduct gaming events in eight Maryland counties: Frederick, Garrett, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Washington, and Worcester counties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Calvert County, Comptroller's Office, State Lottery Agency, Department of Legislative Services

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mcp/rhh

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