

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 593 (Queen Anne's County Delegation)
Ways and Means

Queen Anne's County - County Commissioners - Gaming Permits

This bill repeals the limitation of two permits per year that Queen Anne's County may issue to an organization for conducting authorized fundraisers. The bill allows the county commissioners to determine the number of permits to issue to an organization in a single year.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: To the extent that Queen Anne's County increases the maximum number of permits that an organization may receive in a single year, permit fee revenue increases.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Queen Anne's County, an eligible organization must obtain a permit before using two or more of the following gaming devices in conducting a fundraiser at which prizes of merchandise or money may be awarded:

- a paddle wheel;
- a wheel of fortune;
- a chance book;

- a card game;
- a raffle; or
- any other gaming device.

Eligible organizations may obtain a permit for up to two such fundraisers per year, lasting up to six hours each, or with county permission, one fundraiser lasting beyond six hours. Permit holders must use at least one-half of the proceeds from the fundraiser for civic, charitable, or educational purposes.

Eligible organizations include specified veterans' organizations, religious organizations, and volunteer fire companies. Also, bona fide fraternal, educational, civic, patriotic, charitable, and specified nonprofit organizations are eligible if the fundraiser is for the benefit of a charity located in the county.

The Queen Anne's County Commissioners may charge a fee set by resolution for each permit and adopt regulations governing permit applications and the issuance of permits.

Background: Each county is responsible for regulating gaming activities conducted by civic and charitable organizations. Statewide local gaming law requirements currently apply to 15 counties, not including Queen Anne's County. There is no statewide reporting of gaming activities by civic and charitable organizations.

Local Fiscal Effect: Queen Anne's County presently charges a \$25 filing fee for charitable fundraiser permits. The county advises that 39 permits were issued in 2007 and 2008, respectively, 44 permits were issued in 2009, and that typically about 30 organizations file for permits each year. If the county commissioners decide to increase the maximum number of permits allowed to eligible organizations, permit fee revenues will increase accordingly.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 857 (Senator Pipkin) - Budget and Taxation.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2010
ncs/rhh

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510