

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 213  
Ways and Means

(Delegates Malone and DeBoy)

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Baltimore County - Casino Events - Money Prizes

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This bill repeals the prohibition against the awarding of money prizes by an organization in Baltimore County that holds a casino event that includes a card game or roulette.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. Baltimore County finances and operations are not directly affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** An organization in Baltimore County may not award a prize of money for a casino event that includes roulette or a card game. Cash prizes can be awarded for events using a paddle wheel, a wheel of fortune, a chance book, bingo, or any other gaming device except a dice game.

**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. 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.

In Baltimore County, qualified organizations may conduct gaming events (*i.e.*, a raffle) or a casino event after obtaining a permit from the county. An organization conducting a gaming event or casino event must spend a majority of net proceeds, in the county, for specified purposes (*i.e.*, fraternal or charitable purposes). A qualified organization may conduct (1) one casino event that includes a card game in a month; and (2) one casino event that includes roulette in one year. An individual may not benefit financially from the event and the event must be personally managed by the members of the organization. A sponsor of a specified casino event may not allow a player to bet more than \$10 in any one game and may not exchange tokens used in wagering for an item of merchandise that is worth more than \$1,000 (or exchange said merchandise for money or an item of merchandise of a different fair market value). Casino event permit holders must submit financial reports to the Baltimore County police department and permit department.

The Baltimore County permit department is required to adopt regulations to govern the conduct of casino events and the issuing of permits to conduct a casino event including a requirement that a separate permit be issued for each casino event.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore County, Maryland State Lottery Agency, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2011  
mlm/rhh

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