

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 494
Ways and Means

(Frederick County Delegation)

Frederick County - Raffles

This bill repeals the limitation on the number of raffles per year that an organization in Frederick County may conduct with a maximum prize of \$5,000 or less. The bill allows the county commissioners to determine the number of raffles an organization may hold in a single year.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: To the extent that Frederick County increases the maximum number of raffles that an organization may hold in a single year and concurrently raises the permit fee, permit fee revenue may increase beginning in FY 2013.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Frederick County, an eligible organization must obtain a permit before conducting a gaming event including a bazaar, carnival, raffle, tip jar, punchboard, chance book, paddle wheel, wheel of fortune, and any other gaming device.

Eligible organizations may hold in a year: (1) one gaming event in which the major prize has a value of \$5,000 or more; and (2) five raffles in which the major prize is \$5,000 or less. Except as specified for tip jars and punchboards, an individual may not benefit financially from a gaming event.

Eligible organizations include bona fide religious, fraternal, civic, war veterans', hospital, amateur athletic, patriotic, charitable and educational organizations as well as volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance companies and their auxiliary organizations.

The Frederick County Commissioners may charge a fee set by resolution for each permit and adopt regulations governing gaming event permit applications and the issuance of permits.

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, except for the slot machines operated on the Eastern Shore. 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 at least one-half of the proceeds from slot machines to benefit a charity.

The Maryland State Lottery Agency conducted a study of local gaming in Maryland required by Chapter 474 of 2008. The report indicates that casino events are conducted in at least 6 counties, and card games are operated in at least 10 of the 24 counties in Maryland.

Local Fiscal Effect: Frederick County presently charges a \$55 filing fee for annual raffle permits. The county advises that in calendar 2011 it issued a total of 166 raffle permits to 166 eligible organizations, with permit revenues totaling \$9,130. If the county commissioners decide to increase the maximum number of raffles and also raise the permit fee for eligible organizations holding more than five raffles each year, then permit fee revenues may increase beginning in fiscal 2013 accordingly.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 165 of 2011 received a hearing in the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and its cross file, HB 147, received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken on either bill.

Cross File: SB 264 (Senators Brinkley and Young) - Budget and Taxation.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2012
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