

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 407
Ways and Means

(Delegate Eckardt, *et al.*)

Dorchester County - Restriction on Sunday Gaming - Repeal

This bill repeals the prohibition on holding an authorized game or carnival on a Sunday.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: License and application fee revenues collected by the clerk of the circuit court for Dorchester County from authorized gaming events, including bingo-only events, increase by a minimal amount. The circuit court for Dorchester County can process additional gaming event and bingo license applications with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Dorchester County a qualified organization may conduct a gaming event (carnival, bazaar, or raffle) for the exclusive benefit of a qualified organization if an individual or group of individuals does not benefit financially from the gaming event or any of its proceeds. Qualified organizations include a volunteer fire company or bona fide religious, fraternal, civic, war veterans', or charitable organization. A gaming event must be managed personally through the members of the qualified organization.

A qualified organization (*e.g.*, certain religious groups, volunteer fire companies, and veterans' organizations) must attain a license for bingo that is not conducted in connection with a gaming event (as described above). A person must have a license for each day that bingo is conducted. The license application must certify (1) the time and

place for the licensed activities; (2) that bingo will be conducted and managed solely by regular members of the applicant organization; and (3) that no compensation or reward will be paid to any person conducting the bingo.

A license for a gaming event or bingo may not authorize a game or carnival on Sunday. Also, an individual under the age of 16 may not play, conduct, or operate bingo. License and application fees in Dorchester County are as follows: \$5 for a raffle or carnival, \$26 for an annual bingo license, and \$1 for a one-day bingo license.

State Fiscal Effect: Gaming license and application fees are collected by the clerk of the circuit court for Dorchester County. License and application fee revenues derived from raffles, carnivals, and bingo increase; however, given the level of the fees involved, the impact will be minimal. The clerk of the circuit court for Dorchester County can continue to process license applications with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 447 (Senator Colburn) - Budget and Taxation.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2012

mlm/rhh

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

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