

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 69  
Ways and Means

(Dorchester County Delegation)

Budget and Taxation

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**Dorchester County - Restriction on Sunday Gaming - Repeal**

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

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**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.

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**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 must apply for 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.

**Local 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.

Volunteer fire companies rely financially on gaming revenues, donations, and the county government. Dorchester County budgeted \$725,700 for fiscal 2013 for volunteer fire and advance life support. Allowing a gaming event on Sunday could increase revenue for volunteer fire companies, thereby reducing reliance on Dorchester County.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** SB 447 of 2012 passed the Senate and received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 407, received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** SB 6 (Senator Colburn) - Budget and Taxation.

**Information Source(s):** Dorchester County, Comptroller's Office, Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 23, 2013  
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