

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 899

(Senator Hershey)

Budget and Taxation

Ways and Means

Kent County - Gaming - Permits

This bill increases the number of gaming permits that the Kent County Commissioners may issue in a single year to a qualified organization from two permits to six permits.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill codifies existing practice in Kent County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Kent County Commissioners may issue a permit to a qualified organization to use two or more gaming devices in conducting a fundraiser at which a prize of merchandise or money may be awarded. Gaming devices are a paddle wheel, a wheel of fortune, a chance book, a card game, or any other gaming device, but it does not include slot machines or coin machines. Unless conducted at an event requiring a permit, a raffle is not considered a multiple gaming device.

Qualified organizations include specified religious organizations, volunteer fire companies or auxiliary units, and veterans' organizations. Permits may be issued to bona fide fraternal, educational, civic, patriotic, or charitable organizations for the purpose of conducting a fundraiser for the benefit of a charity located in the county. Additionally, a bona fide nonprofit organization that has operated as a nonprofit in the county for at least three years and intends to use the gaming devices to raise money exclusively for charitable, athletic, or educational purposes is considered a qualified organization.

A permit is valid for one event that does not last longer than six hours. The county commissioners may issue a permit for an event of longer than six hours if the permit holder does not seek more than one permit in the same year. Gaming events may not be held on the premises of a Class B or Class D alcoholic beverages licensee.

The county commissioners may not issue more than two permits to an organization in a single year.

Background: In 2013, the Kent County Commissioners issued 46 gaming permits to 33 organizations. The Kent County Commissioners have issued up to five permits to an organization in a single year.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1135 (Delegate Jacobs, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2014
ncs/jrb

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