

Chapter 283

(House Bill 530)

AN ACT concerning

St. Mary's County – Gaming – Administration of Bingo Licenses

FOR the purpose of requiring the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County to designate a person to administer the issuance of bingo licenses in the county; authorizing the Board, in consultation with the designee, to adopt certain regulations; requiring certain organizations to apply to the designee for a bingo license; requiring the designee to charge certain license fees; requiring certain organizations to allow the designee to inspect certain records of the organization; making conforming changes; defining a certain term; and generally relating to gaming in St. Mary's County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Criminal Law

Section 13–2101, 13–2103, 13–2105, 13–2106, 13–2107, and 13–2115

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Criminal Law

13–2101.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “County commissioners” means the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

(C) “DESIGNEE” MEANS A PERSON DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ADMINISTER THE ISSUANCE OF BINGO LICENSES IN THE COUNTY.

[(c)] (D) (1) “Gaming device” includes a paddle wheel, wheel of fortune, chance book, bingo, Nevada card, and a stamp machine.

(2) “Gaming device” does not include a slot machine, as defined in § 12–301 of this article.

[(d)] (E) “Gaming event” means a carnival, bazaar, or raffle.

[(e)] (F) “Qualified organization” means:

- (1) a volunteer fire company; or
- (2) a bona fide:
 - (i) religious organization;
 - (ii) fraternal organization;
 - (iii) civic organization;
 - (iv) war veterans’ organization; or
 - (v) charitable organization.

[(f)] (G) “Sheriff” means the Sheriff of St. Mary’s County.

13–2103.

(A) A qualified organization must have a bingo license whenever the qualified organization conducts bingo.

(B) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DESIGNEE UNDER § 13–2105 OF THIS SUBTITLE, TO ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE BINGO ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTY.

13–2105.

(a) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL DESIGNATE A PERSON TO ADMINISTER THE ISSUANCE OF BINGO LICENSES IN THE COUNTY.

(B) An organization shall submit an application for a bingo license to the **[sheriff] DESIGNEE**.

[(b)] (C) A principal officer of the organization shall certify in the application for a bingo license:

- (1) the name and address of the organization;
- (2) the name and address of the officer seeking the license for the organization;
- (3) that the officer is authorized by the organization to file the application;

(4) the time and place of bingo;

(5) that, within 15 days after the last day named in the application for the license to conduct bingo, a principal officer of the organization will file under penalties of perjury the report required by § 13–2109 of this subtitle;

(6) that bingo will be conducted solely and personally by the regular members of the organization, without the assistance of gaming professionals; and

(7) that no compensation or reward will be paid to a person for conducting or assisting in conducting bingo.

13–2106.

(a) By resolution, the county commissioners may establish a bingo license fee schedule based on criteria that the county commissioners consider appropriate.

(b) The [sheriff] **DESIGNEE** shall charge for each license the annual license fee that the county commissioners set by resolution.

(c) A resolution adopted under subsection (a) of this section shall specify the fund in which the license fees are to be deposited.

13–2107.

The [sheriff] **DESIGNEE** shall issue a numbered license to an organization that meets the requirements of §§ 13–2103 through 13–2110 of this subtitle to conduct bingo and award prizes.

13–2115.

(a) A qualified organization shall keep accurate records of proceeds and expenditures involving gaming devices.

(b) On request, a qualified organization shall allow the State’s Attorney for the county, a State Police officer, **THE DESIGNEE**, and the sheriff or deputy sheriff to examine the records required under subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.