SENATE BILL 155

By: Senator Young
Requested: October 12, 2021
Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

State Lottery – Instant Ticket Lottery Machines – Fraternal Organizations
(ITLMs for Homeless Veterans Act)

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Director of the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to issue certain fraternal organizations a license for not more than a certain number of instant ticket lottery machines for the sale of certain instant lottery tickets under certain circumstances; providing for the distribution of the proceeds from certain lottery machine ticket sales by a fraternal organization; declaring the intent of the General Assembly that the Agency solicit proposals from multiple vendors for the lease or purchase of instant ticket lottery machines under this Act; and generally relating to the operation of and proceeds from instant ticket lottery machines in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 9–112
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – State Government

9–112.

(a) (1) In this section, “veterans’ THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(2) (I) “FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT:

1. IS A BONA FIDE FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION;
2. IS OPERATED UNDER THE LODGE SYSTEM;
3. IS CONDUCTED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ITS MEMBERS AND ITS BENEFICIARIES; AND
4. HAS BEEN LOCATED IN A COUNTY IN WHICH THIS SECTION APPLIES FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS BEFORE THE ORGANIZATION APPLIES FOR A LICENSE UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

(II) “FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION” INCLUDES A SORORAL ORGANIZATION.

(III) “FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION” DOES NOT INCLUDE:

1. ANY COLLEGE OR HIGH SCHOOL FRATERNITY OR SORORITY; OR
2. ANY OTHER FRATERNAL OR SORORAL ORGANIZATION THE MEMBERSHIP OF WHICH IS RESTRICTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART TO STUDENTS OR GRADUATES OF AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OR A PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL.

(3) “VENDOR” MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT:

(I) OWNS, SERVICES, AND MAINTAINS INSTANT TICKET LOTTERY MACHINES FOR USE IN ESTABLISHMENTS APPROVED BY THE AGENCY; AND

(II) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND OPERATING FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS.

(4) “VETERANS’ organization” means an organization that is tax exempt and organized as a veterans’ organization under § 501(c)(19) or § 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, in accordance with the regulations of the Agency and this subtitle, the Director shall issue licenses to the persons and governmental units that will best serve the public convenience and promote the sale of State lottery tickets or shares.

(c) Before issuing a license to an applicant, the Director shall consider such
factors as:

(1) the financial responsibility and security of the applicant and the business or activity of the applicant;

(2) the accessibility of the place of business or activity to the public;

(3) the sufficiency of existing licenses to serve the public convenience; and

(4) the volume of expected sales.

(d) (1) This subsection does not apply in:

(i) Caroline County;

(ii) Cecil County;

(iii) Dorchester County;

(iv) Kent County;

(v) Queen Anne’s County;

(vi) Somerset County;

(vii) Talbot County;

(viii) Wicomico County; and

(ix) Worcester County.

(2) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Director may issue a license under this subtitle for not more than five instant ticket lottery machines to an applicant that is a veterans’ organization OR FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION.

(ii) A veterans’ organization OR FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION that is issued a license under this subsection shall locate and operate its instant ticket lottery machines at its principal meeting hall in the county in which the veterans’ organization OR FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION is located.

(3) (I) After deduction of any commission and validation prize payout as provided under § 9–117 of this subtitle, a veterans’ organization issued a license under this subsection shall credit the remaining receipts from the sale of tickets from instant ticket lottery machines to the State Lottery Fund established under § 9–118 of this subtitle.

(II) AFTER DEDUCTION OF A VALIDATION PRIZE PAYOUT, A
FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION ISSUED A LICENSE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL REMIT THE RECEIPTS FROM THE SALE OF TICKETS FROM INSTANT TICKET LOTTERY MACHINES TO THE AGENCY TO BE DISTRIBUTED AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(III) ON A PROPERLY APPROVED TRANSMITTAL, THE AGENCY SHALL PAY THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS FROM THE PROCEEDS OF SALES OF TICKETS FROM INSTANT TICKET LOTTERY MACHINES OPERATED BY A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION:

1. 10% TO THE HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, TO BE USED, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, TO ASSIST VETERANS AND FAMILIES OF VETERANS, WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO:

   A. WOMEN VETERANS WHO ARE HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS;
   
   B. SINGLE–PARENT VETERAN FAMILIES; AND
   
   C. VETERANS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; AND

2. FROM THE REMAINING PROCEEDS OF SALES OF TICKETS FROM INSTANT TICKET LOTTERY MACHINES OPERATED BY A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION:

   A. 50% TO THE FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION;
   
   B. TO THE AGENCY, AN AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY FOR THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF THE INSTANT TICKET LOTTERY MACHINES; AND
   
   C. ANY REMAINING AMOUNT TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.

(IV) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT, WHEN THE AGENCY SOLICITS PROPOSALS FOR THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF INSTANT TICKET LOTTERY MACHINES UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (III)2B OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE AGENCY SOLICIT PROPOSALS FROM MULTIPLE VENDORS.

(4) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, a veterans’ organization issued a license under this subsection shall purchase or lease the instant ticket lottery machines to be used by the veterans’ organization.
(ii) An organization may not use receipts from the sale of tickets from instant ticket lottery machines that would otherwise be credited to the State Lottery Fund for the costs of purchasing or leasing instant ticket lottery machines.

(5) The Director may adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this subsection that include restricting the location of instant ticket lottery machines in areas of a veterans’ organization’s or fraternal organization’s public meeting hall that is accessible to the public.

(6) The Agency shall ensure that the element of chance in the conduct of the gaming through the instant ticket lottery machines established under this subsection is consistent with the holding in the case of Chesapeake Amusements Inc. v. Riddle, 363 Md. 16 (2001), in that the element of chance must be wholly within the pre-printed instant lottery ticket, and that player enhancements in an instant ticket lottery machine may not affect the element of chance being wholly within the pre-printed instant lottery ticket.

(e) The Director may not issue a license to:

(1) a person or governmental unit to engage in business primarily as a licensed agent; or

(2) an individual who is under the age of 21 years.

(f) The Commission may hear and decide an appeal of a denial of a license.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.