

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 263
Ways and Means

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Budget and Taxation

St. Mary's County - Gaming - Senior Activity Centers

This bill authorizes senior activity centers in St. Mary’s County to conduct gaming events, bunco games, or card games. A senior activity center is a community or neighborhood facility in which a broad spectrum of services (as specified) are organized and provided to senior citizens and their spouses. A senior activity center may not award a money prize exceeding \$50 to a winner each session nor charge a participant more than \$25 to play one session. Any proceeds from a gaming event, bunco game, or card game must be used to support future programming at the senior activity center. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Negligible. St. Mary’s County finances are not substantially affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A qualified organization in St. Mary’s County may conduct a gaming event (a carnival, bazaar, or raffle) for the exclusive benefit of a qualified organization if an individual or a group of individuals does not benefit financially from the gaming event or receive any of the proceeds from the gaming event for personal use or benefit. Qualified organizations include volunteer fire companies and *bona fide* religious, fraternal, civic, war veterans’, and charitable organizations.

A qualified organization must keep accurate records of proceeds and expenditures involving gaming devices. On request, a qualified organization must allow the State's Attorney for the county, a State Police officer, the designee, and the sheriff or deputy sheriff to examine these records.

State Fiscal Effect: While the bill may draw some gaming revenues away from the State lottery and casino facilities, the impact is likely small enough that overall gaming revenues are not materially affected. State Police operations are not substantially affected.

Local Fiscal Effect: St. Mary's County does not anticipate significant changes to revenue or expenditures.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County; State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2023
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