

HOUSE BILL 717

C7

6lr2051
CF 6lr2014

By: Delegate Edelson

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Raffles – Organizations Affiliated With Professional Baseball**
3 **and Football Teams**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain organizations that are affiliated with a professional
5 National Football League team that plays its home games in Baltimore City to
6 conduct certain raffles, subject to certain limitations; repealing a certain termination
7 date of certain provisions of law authorizing certain organizations that are affiliated
8 with a professional Major League Baseball team that plays its home games in
9 Baltimore City to conduct certain raffles; and generally relating to raffles in
10 Baltimore City.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Criminal Law
13 Section 13–501, 13–503, and 13–505
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Criminal Law
18 Section 13–505.1
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Chapter 372 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025
23 Section 2

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

26 **Article – Criminal Law**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 13-501.

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

3 (b) "Commissioner" means the Baltimore City Police Commissioner.

4 (c) "Designated city agency" means an agency designated by the Baltimore City
5 government.

6 (d) (1) "Electronic device" means a device that is capable of transmitting,
7 receiving, or recording messages, images, sounds, data, or other information by electronic
8 means or that, in appearance, purports to be a cell phone, computer, or other such device.

9 (2) "Electronic device" includes a cell phone or computer.

10 (3) "Electronic device" does not include a video lottery terminal as defined
11 under § 9-1A-01 of the State Government Article.

12 (e) "Gaming event" means a carnival, bazaar, or raffle.

13 (f) (1) "Geofence" means technology that establishes a virtual geographical
14 boundary.

15 (2) "Geofence" includes boundaries that are established or monitored
16 through the use of:

17 (i) global positioning technology;

18 (ii) cell tower connectivity;

19 (iii) cellular data;

20 (iv) radio frequency identification;

21 (v) wireless fidelity technology; or

22 (vi) any other form of location determination technology.

23 (g) "Raffle" means one or more drawings from a single series of chances sold.

24 13-503.

25 (a) This section does not apply to a raffle authorized under § 13-505.1 of this
26 subtitle.

3 (c) (1) An organization that meets the conditions of paragraph (2) of this
4 subsection may conduct a gaming event for the benefit of any of the following listed
5 organizations if the organization is a bona fide:

6 (i) religious organization;

7 (ii) fraternal organization;

8 (iii) civic organization;

9 (iv) veterans' hospital;

10 (v) amateur athletic organization in which all playing members are
11 under the age of 18 years; or

12 (vi) charitable organization.

13 (2) An organization conducting a gaming event shall:

14 (i) be located in Baltimore City; and

15 (ii) spend a majority of the organization's funds in Baltimore City
16 for:

17 1. fraternal purposes;

18 2. civic purposes;

20 4. purposes related to amateur athletics; or

21 5. charitable purposes.

22 (d) (1) Before the commissioner may issue a permit, the commissioner shall
23 review the character of the organization applying for the permit to ascertain that the
24 organization meets the requirements of §§ 13–503 through 13–505 of this subtitle.

25 (2) The commissioner shall make any application for a permit and the
26 action taken by the commissioner on that application a matter of public record.

(2) The permit is not transferable.

2 (f) An organization conducting a gaming event in Baltimore City may not allow
3 an individual or group of individuals to:

4 (1) benefit financially from the gaming event; or

5 (2) receive any of the proceeds of the gaming event for personal use or
6 benefit.

7 13-505.

10 (b) Except as provided in § 13–505.1(d)(1)(ii) of this subtitle, a permit holder may
11 not conduct more than 12 raffles in a calendar year.

12 13-505.1.

13 (a) A raffle may be conducted by an organization that:

14 (1) is located in Baltimore City;

15 (2) spends a majority of the organization's funds in Baltimore City for:

16 (i) fraternal purposes;

17 (ii) civic purposes;

18 (iii) purposes related to a veterans' hospital;

19 (iv) purposes related to amateur athletics; or

20 (v) charitable purposes; and

21 (3) is affiliated with:

22 (I) a professional Major League Baseball team that plays its home
23 games in Baltimore City; OR

24 (II) A PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAM
25 THAT PLAYS ITS HOME GAMES IN BALTIMORE CITY

26 (b) (1) Before conducting a raffle, an organization shall obtain a written permit
27 from the designated city agency.

3 (c) (1) A permit issued to an organization under this section may not be
4 transferred.

18 (e) An organization conducting a raffle may:

19 (1) set the price of raffle tickets; and

20 (2) award prizes in merchandise and money in any amount.

21 (f) An organization conducting a raffle may not allow an individual or group of
22 individuals to:

23 (1) benefit financially from the raffle; or

24 (2) receive any of the proceeds of the raffle for personal use or benefit.

25 (g) (1) A raffle ticket sold by an organization in conjunction with a professional
26 Major League Baseball **OR PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE** game played
27 in Baltimore City:

28 (i) may only be sold using age-verification measures to ensure that
29 the buyer is at least 18 years old;

30 (ii) may be sold and received in-person or on an electronic device
31 only within the geographical boundaries described in paragraph (2) of this subsection; and

10 (2) An organization conducting a raffle under this section;

11 (i) is not subject to § 12–108 of this article, provided that an
12 individual may not purchase more than \$50 worth of tickets or make more than one credit
13 transaction each day; and

14 (ii) shall use a geofence to ensure that raffle tickets sold and received
15 on an electronic device are sold and received within an area in Baltimore City that is
16 bounded as follows:

1 Chapter 372 of the Acts of 2025

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
3 1, 2025. [It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
4 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
5 abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
7 1, 2026.