

SENATE BILL 357

C7, E1

6lr1420
CF HB 610

By: **Senator Bailey**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 20, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – Gaming by Qualified Organization – ~~License~~ Permit**
3 **Required**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a qualified organization to hold a gaming ~~license~~ permit
5 whenever the qualified organization ~~conducts~~ operates a certain gaming device in St.
6 Mary's County; authorizing the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County to adopt
7 certain regulations; requiring the Board to designate a person to administer the
8 issuance of gaming ~~licenses~~ permits in the county; and generally relating to gaming
9 in St. Mary's County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Criminal Law
12 Section 13–2101 and 13–2111
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Criminal Law**

18 13–2101.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (b) “County commissioners” means the [Board of] County Commissioners of St.
2 Mary’s County.

3 (c) “Designee” means a person designated by the county commissioners to
4 administer the issuance of bingo licenses ~~OR GAMING LICENSES~~ PERMITS in the county.

5 (d) (1) **“GAMING DEVICE” MEANS A MECHANISM FOR PLAYING A GAME OF**
6 **CHANCE.**

7 (2) “Gaming device” includes a paddle wheel, wheel of fortune, chance book,
8 bingo, Nevada card, and a stamp machine.

9 ~~(2)~~ (3) “Gaming device” does not include a slot machine, as defined in §
10 12–301 of this article.

11 (e) “Gaming event” means a carnival, bazaar, or raffle.

12 (f) “Qualified organization” means:

13 (1) a volunteer fire company; or

14 (2) a bona fide:

15 (i) religious organization;

16 (ii) fraternal organization;

17 (iii) civic organization;

18 (iv) war veterans’ organization; or

19 (v) charitable organization.

20 (g) “Sheriff” means the Sheriff of St. Mary’s County.

21 13–2111.

22 (A) **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A QUALIFIED**
23 **ORGANIZATION MUST HOLD A GAMING ~~LICENSE~~ PERMIT WHENEVER THE QUALIFIED**
24 **ORGANIZATION ~~CONDUCTS~~ OPERATES A GAMING DEVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
25 **THIS SUBTITLE.**

26 (B) A qualified organization may hold a gaming event and may operate a gaming
27 device if an individual or group of individuals does not:

28 (1) benefit financially from the operation of the gaming device; or

1 (2) receive from the operation of the gaming device any proceeds for
2 personal use or benefit.

3 (C) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS, IN
4 CONSULTATION WITH THE DESIGNEE UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, TO
5 ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE ~~GAMING ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED~~ THE GAMING DEVICE
6 PERMIT REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION IN THE COUNTY.

7 (D) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL DESIGNATE A PERSON TO
8 ADMINISTER THE ISSUANCE OF GAMING ~~LICENSES~~ PERMITS UNDER THIS SECTION
9 IN THE COUNTY.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 ~~October~~ July 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.