

SENATE BILL 538

C7

6lr2014
CF HB 717

By: **Senator McCray**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: February 23, 2026

CHAPTER _____

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~~ extending a certain
7 termination date of certain provisions of law authorizing certain organizations that
8 are affiliated with a professional Major League Baseball team that plays its home
9 games in Baltimore City to conduct certain raffles; and generally relating to raffles
10 in 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

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 Section 2

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

4 **Article – Criminal Law**

5 13–501.

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

7 (b) “Commissioner” means the Baltimore City Police Commissioner.

8 (c) “Designated city agency” means an agency designated by the Baltimore City
9 government.

10 (d) (1) “Electronic device” means a device that is capable of transmitting,
11 receiving, or recording messages, images, sounds, data, or other information by electronic
12 means or that, in appearance, purports to be a cell phone, computer, or other such device.

13 (2) “Electronic device” includes a cell phone or computer.

14 (3) “Electronic device” does not include a video lottery terminal as defined
15 under § 9–1A–01 of the State Government Article.

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

17 (f) (1) “Geofence” means technology that establishes a virtual geographical
18 boundary.

19 (2) “Geofence” includes boundaries that are established or monitored
20 through the use of:

21 (i) global positioning technology;

22 (ii) cell tower connectivity;

23 (iii) cellular data;

24 (iv) radio frequency identification;

25 (v) wireless fidelity technology; or

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

27 (g) “Raffle” means one or more drawings from a single series of chances sold.

1 13–503.

2 (a) This section does not apply to a raffle authorized under § 13–505.1 of this
3 subtitle.

4 (b) Before an organization listed in subsection (c) of this section may operate a
5 gaming event, the organization shall obtain a permit from the commissioner.

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

9 (i) religious organization;

10 (ii) fraternal organization;

11 (iii) civic organization;

12 (iv) veterans' hospital;

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

15 (vi) charitable organization.

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

17 (i) be located in Baltimore City; and

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

20 1. fraternal purposes;

21 2. civic purposes;

22 3. purposes related to a veterans' hospital;

23 4. purposes related to amateur athletics; or

24 5. charitable purposes.

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

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

3 (e) (1) The permit shall state that the gaming event shall be managed and
4 operated personally only by members of the organization obtaining the permit.

5 (2) The permit is not transferable.

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

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

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

11 13–505.

12 (a) A permit holder may award prizes in merchandise and money in a raffle in
13 any amount.

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

16 13–505.1.

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

18 (1) is located in Baltimore City;

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

20 (i) fraternal purposes;

21 (ii) civic purposes;

22 (iii) purposes related to a veterans’ hospital;

23 (iv) purposes related to amateur athletics; or

24 (v) charitable purposes; and

25 (3) is affiliated with:

26 **(I)** a professional Major League Baseball team that plays its home
27 games in Baltimore City; **OR**

1 **(II) A PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAM**
2 **THAT PLAYS ITS HOME GAMES IN BALTIMORE CITY.**

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

5 (2) Before issuing a permit, the designated city agency shall ascertain the
6 character of the organization to determine if the permit should be issued.

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

9 (2) The permit shall state that the raffle is required to be managed and
10 operated only by members of the organization obtaining the permit.

11 (d) (1) (i) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the designated city
12 agency may issue a single permit to an organization to hold raffles at multiple professional
13 Major League Baseball **OR PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE** games
14 played in Baltimore City.

15 (ii) There is no limit on the number of raffles that an organization
16 may conduct in conjunction with professional Major League Baseball **OR PROFESSIONAL**
17 **NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE** games played in Baltimore City.

18 (2) A permit to hold raffles at multiple professional Major League Baseball
19 **OR PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE** games played in Baltimore City
20 expires [at the end of the calendar year in] **1 YEAR AFTER THE DATE ON** which the permit
21 is issued.

22 (e) An organization conducting a raffle may:

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

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

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

27 (1) benefit financially from the raffle; or

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

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

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

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

5 (iii) **1. WITH RESPECT TO A RAFFLE CONDUCTED BY AN**
6 **ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3)(I) OF THIS SECTION**, shall be
7 sold and received not earlier than 1 hour before the official start of the baseball game and
8 not later than the seventh inning of that baseball game; **OR**

9 **2. WITH RESPECT TO A RAFFLE CONDUCTED BY AN**
10 **ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3)(II) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL**
11 **BE SOLD AND RECEIVED NOT EARLIER THAN 4.5 HOURS BEFORE THE OFFICIAL**
12 **START OF THE FOOTBALL GAME AND NOT LATER THAN THE THIRD QUARTER OF**
13 **THAT FOOTBALL GAME.**

14 (2) An organization conducting a raffle under this section:

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

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

21 **1. WITH RESPECT TO A RAFFLE CONDUCTED BY AN**
22 **ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3)(I) OF THIS SECTION DURING**
23 **A BASEBALL GAME**, from the intersection of West Camden Street and South Howard
24 Street, south on South Howard Street to West Conway Street, west on West Conway Street
25 to South Eutaw Street, south on South Eutaw Street to West Lee Street, west on West Lee
26 Street to Russell Street, north on Russell Street to South Paca Street, northeast on South
27 Paca Street to West Camden Street, and east on West Camden Street to the intersection of
28 West Camden Street and South Howard Street; **AND**

29 **2. WITH RESPECT TO A RAFFLE CONDUCTED BY AN**
30 **ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3)(II) OF THIS SECTION**
31 **DURING A FOOTBALL GAME, FROM THE INTERSECTION OF WEST CAMDEN STREET**
32 **AND SOUTH HOWARD STREET, WEST ON WEST CAMDEN STREET TO WASHINGTON**
33 **BOULEVARD, SOUTHWEST ON WASHINGTON BOULEVARD TO WEST BARRE STREET,**
34 **SOUTH ON WEST BARRE STREET TO CARROLL STREET, NORTHEAST ON CARROLL**
35 **STREET TO SOUTH PACA STREET, SOUTH ON SOUTH PACA STREET TO WEST**
36 **OSTEND STREET, INCLUDING THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF 701 WEST OSTEND**
37 **STREET, EAST ON THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF 701 WEST OSTEND STREET TO**

1 RIDGELY STREET, NORTH ON RIDGELY STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF WEST
 2 OSTEND STREET AND RIDGELY STREET, EAST ON WEST OSTEND STREET TO CAL
 3 RIPKEN WAY, NORTH ON CAL RIPKEN WAY TO SOUTH HOWARD STREET, AND
 4 NORTH ON SOUTH HOWARD STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF SOUTH HOWARD
 5 STREET AND WEST CAMDEN STREET.

6 **Chapter 372 of the Acts of 2025**

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
 8 1, 2025. ~~It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month~~ **6 YEARS** and, at the
 9 end of ~~June 30, 2026~~ **MAY 31, 2031**, this Act, with no further action required by the
 10 General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.†

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
 12 1, 2026. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of the termination provision
 13 specified in Section 2 of Chapter 372 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025. If that
 14 termination provision takes effect, this Act, with no further action required by the General
 15 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. This Act may not be
 16 interpreted to have any effect on that termination provision.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.