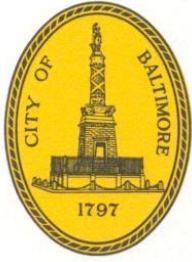


SB 341.pdf

Uploaded by: Erin Murphy

Position: FAV



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Richard J. Worley
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee

FROM: Erin C. Murphy, Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.

RE: Senate Bill 341- Baltimore City- Raffles- Organizations Affiliated with a Professional Major League Baseball Team

DATE: January 29, 2025

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** Senate Bill 341.

This bill creates a special exception for organizations affiliated with a professional Major League Baseball team playing home games in Baltimore City to conduct raffles with unique provisions. The bill allows these organizations to obtain a permit from a designated Baltimore City agency to hold raffles in conjunction with baseball games, with no limit on the number of raffles they can conduct during a single season. Raffle tickets can only be sold and received electronically within Baltimore City's geographical boundaries, specifically within one hour before the game starts and until the seventh inning, using geofence technology to ensure location compliance. The permit is valid only for the calendar year in which it is issued, and the organization cannot benefit financially from the raffle or use proceeds for personal use.

Overall, the Baltimore Police Department believes that this bill expands the Baltimore Orioles ability to use funds acquired through the raffle to continue to provide positive impacts to the City and has no operational impact on the Department. Therefore, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 341.

SB341 Written Testimony_Favorable_Baltimore Oriole

Uploaded by: Kerry Watson

Position: FAV

BALTIMORE ORIOLES



2023 A.L. EAST CHAMPS | 2016 A.L. WILD CARD | 2014 A.L. EAST CHAMPS | 2012 A.L. WILD CARD | 1997 A.L. EAST CHAMPS | 1996 A.L. WILD CARD | 1983 WORLD CHAMPS | 1979 A.L. CHAMPS | 1974 A.L. EAST CHAMPS | 1973 A.L. EAST CHAMPS | 1971 A.L. CHAMPS | 1970 WORLD CHAMPS | 1969 A.L. CHAMPS | 1966 WORLD CHAMPS

To: Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair of Senate Budget & Tax Committee

RE: **Support** for SB341 - Baltimore City - Raffles - Organizations Affiliated With a Professional Major League Baseball Team

The Baltimore Orioles **SUPPORT** SB341 - Baltimore City – Raffles – Organizations Affiliated With a Professional Major League Baseball Team FOR the purpose of authorizing certain organizations that are affiliated with a professional major league baseball team that plays its home games in Baltimore City to conduct certain raffles; requiring the organization to obtain a permit to conduct raffles from an agency designated by the Baltimore City government; authorizing a raffle ticket to be sold and received on an electronic device located within the geographical boundaries of Baltimore City; and generally relating to raffles in Baltimore City.

Established in 1965, The Baltimore Orioles Foundation, a private 501(c)3, is renowned for touching all corners of Birdland through its charitable giving. Organizations like the American Red Cross Central Maryland Chapter, ShareBaby, Inc., and James Mosher Baseball are just a few of the examples of organizations that have benefitted from the Foundation. Additionally, in 2023, The Baltimore Orioles Foundation pledged \$5 million to Baltimore City based, CollegeBound, Inc., an organization that helps Baltimore City public-schools students attend and afford college tuition.

In the beginning of the 2024 season, The Baltimore Orioles were one of only two Major League Baseball organizations that did not conduct 50/50 raffles. Recognizing a missed opportunity to do more in its communities, while giving fans an opportunity they enjoy, the organization begin researching how to conduct these raffles. The research found that current State Law allows an entity 12 raffles a year, while the Major League Baseball schedule has a minimum of 81 home game per season.

In July of 2024, The Baltimore Orioles established an in park 50/50 raffle that would give fans the ability to both donate to the Foundation and enter the chance to win the raffle, allowing the Foundation to do more in our communities. Our first non-profit raffle recipient was Elev8 Baltimore, a city non-profit that “partners with schools, families and the community to ensure that every student is prepared for high school, college career and life.” Partnering with Elev8 was apropos as they are the partner of The Baltimore Orioles in the organization’s highest profile and highly regarded relationship with Harlem Park Elementary School and the neighborhood of Harlem Park.

While the organization currently identifies numerous organizations to provide funding through the raffle, it is the goal of The Baltimore Orioles Foundation to use the funds acquired through the raffle to strategically and thoughtfully provide the greatest possible positive impact for the City of Baltimore and the greater region, through its pillars of “Play” through the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) Program, “Inner City Health Disparities”, and “Education,” which includes its continuing efforts to support Harlem Park and the CollegeBound Foundation.

SB341 would amend the statute, allowing The Baltimore Orioles to conduct 50/50 raffles for every home game, and allow fans who are located within the City of Baltimore (using geofence technology) to participate in these 50/50 raffles on game days one hour before the game through the 7th inning.

Using smartphones and geofencing has become commonplace in MLB. Teams like the Cleveland Guardians allow fans to purchase tickets from anywhere in the State of Ohio. Fans interested in participating in the 50/50 raffle for the Toronto Blue Jays need to be physically located within the province of Ontario or the province of Nova Scotia at the time of purchase.

The Baltimore Orioles urge a **FAVORABLE** report.

SB 341 Baltimore City – Raffles – Organizations Se

Uploaded by: Marvin "DOC" Cheatham

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165
Cory.McCray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote YES on Senate Bill 341

Bill Title: Baltimore City – Raffles – Organizations Affiliated with a
Professional MLB Team

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Hearing Date: January 29, 2025

Dear Chair and members of the committee:

I am writing today in support of **Senate Bill 341**, which would modernize charitable raffles at Baltimore Orioles games by allowing organizations to conduct raffles using modern technology - specifically phones and computers - instead of traditional paper tickets. The goal is to make it easier for fans to participate while ensuring all proceeds benefit our Baltimore community.

The legislation includes careful rules about when and where these raffles can operate. Ticket sales would only be allowed when someone is physically present in Baltimore City, starting one hour before each game and ending at the 7th inning. Special technology would verify a participant's location to ensure compliance.

Organizations running these raffles must meet specific requirements. They must be based in Baltimore City and direct most of their funds toward community benefits such as charitable work, community service, veterans hospitals, youth sports, or local organization activities. A designated city agency would oversee the process, ensuring only qualified organizations receive permits. The bill provides clear operational guidelines. While organizations could set their own ticket prices and prize amounts, they cannot keep proceeds for personal use. Only official members of the permitted organization could operate the raffle, and one permit could cover multiple games throughout the year.

Most importantly, this legislation maintains strong oversight while bringing Baltimore's charitable gaming into the modern era. It allows baseball fans to support community causes more easily while ensuring proper controls and transparency in the process.

In closing, I respectfully urge the committee to support **Senate Bill 341**. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation that would benefit both charitable organizations and the broader Baltimore community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke.

Cory V. McCray
45th District