

Chapter 372

(Senate Bill 341)

AN ACT concerning

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; requiring that raffle tickets are sold using age-verification measures to ensure that the buyer is at least a certain age; authorizing a raffle ticket to be sold and received in-person or on an electronic device located within the a certain geographical boundaries of area in Baltimore City; providing that, subject to certain limitations, an organization conducting a raffle under this Act is not subject to a certain provision of law that prohibits the organization from accepting credit as payment; and generally relating to raffles in Baltimore City.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Criminal Law

Section 13–501, 13–503, 13–505, and 13–510

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Criminal Law

Section 13–505.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Criminal Law

13–501.

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

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

(c) **“DESIGNATED CITY AGENCY” MEANS AN AGENCY DESIGNATED BY THE
BALTIMORE CITY GOVERNMENT.**

(D) (1) “ELECTRONIC DEVICE” MEANS A DEVICE THAT IS CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING, RECEIVING, OR RECORDING MESSAGES, IMAGES, SOUNDS, DATA, OR OTHER INFORMATION BY ELECTRONIC MEANS OR THAT, IN APPEARANCE, PURPORTS TO BE A CELL PHONE, COMPUTER, OR OTHER SUCH DEVICE.

(2) “ELECTRONIC DEVICE” INCLUDES A CELL PHONE OR COMPUTER.

(3) “ELECTRONIC DEVICE” DOES NOT INCLUDE A VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINAL AS DEFINED UNDER § 9–1A–01 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

[(c)] (E) “Gaming event” means a carnival, bazaar, or raffle.

(F) (1) “GEOFENCE” MEANS TECHNOLOGY THAT ESTABLISHES A VIRTUAL GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARY.

(2) “GEOFENCE” INCLUDES BOUNDARIES THAT ARE ESTABLISHED OR MONITORED THROUGH THE USE OF:

(I) GLOBAL POSITIONING TECHNOLOGY;

(II) CELL TOWER CONNECTIVITY;

(III) CELLULAR DATA;

(IV) RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION;

(V) WIRELESS FIDELITY TECHNOLOGY; OR

(VI) ANY OTHER FORM OF LOCATION DETERMINATION TECHNOLOGY.

[(d)] (G) “Raffle” means one or more drawings from a single series of chances sold [from chance books].

13–503.

(a) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A RAFFLE AUTHORIZED UNDER § 13–505.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) Before an organization listed in subsection **[(b)] (C)** of this section may operate a gaming event, the organization shall obtain a permit from the commissioner.

[(b)] (C) (1) An organization that meets the conditions of paragraph (2) of this subsection may conduct a gaming event for the benefit of any of the following listed organizations if the organization is a bona fide:

(i) religious organization;

(ii) fraternal organization;

(iii) civic organization;

(iv) veterans' hospital;

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

(vi) charitable organization.

(2) An organization conducting a gaming event shall:

(i) be located in Baltimore City; and

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

1. fraternal purposes;

2. civic purposes;

3. purposes related to a veterans' hospital;

4. purposes related to amateur athletics; or

5. charitable purposes.

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

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

[(d)] (E) (1) The permit shall state that the gaming event shall be managed and operated personally only by members of the organization obtaining the permit.

(2) The permit is not transferable.

[(e)] (F) An organization conducting a gaming event in Baltimore City may not allow an individual or group of individuals to:

- (1) benefit financially from the gaming event; or
- (2) receive any of the proceeds of the gaming event for personal use or benefit.

13–505.

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

(b) **[A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 13–505.1(D)(1)(II) OF THIS SUBTITLE, A** permit holder may not conduct more than 12 raffles in a calendar year.

13–505.1.

(A) A RAFFLE MAY BE CONDUCTED BY AN ORGANIZATION THAT:

- (1) IS LOCATED IN BALTIMORE CITY;**
- (2) SPENDS A MAJORITY OF THE ORGANIZATION’S FUNDS IN BALTIMORE CITY FOR:**
 - (I) FRATERNAL PURPOSES;**
 - (II) CIVIC PURPOSES;**
 - (III) PURPOSES RELATED TO A VETERANS’ HOSPITAL;**
 - (IV) PURPOSES RELATED TO AMATEUR ATHLETICS; OR**
 - (V) CHARITABLE PURPOSES; AND**

(3) IS AFFILIATED WITH A PROFESSIONAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM THAT PLAYS ITS HOME GAMES IN BALTIMORE CITY.

(B) (1) BEFORE CONDUCTING A RAFFLE, AN ORGANIZATION SHALL OBTAIN A WRITTEN PERMIT FROM THE DESIGNATED CITY AGENCY.

(2) BEFORE ISSUING A PERMIT, THE DESIGNATED CITY AGENCY SHALL ASCERTAIN THE CHARACTER OF THE ORGANIZATION TO DETERMINE IF THE PERMIT SHOULD BE ISSUED.

(C) (1) A PERMIT ISSUED TO AN ORGANIZATION UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED.

(2) THE PERMIT SHALL STATE THAT THE RAFFLE IS REQUIRED TO BE MANAGED AND OPERATED ONLY BY MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OBTAINING THE PERMIT.

(D) (1) (I) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DESIGNATED CITY AGENCY MAY ISSUE A SINGLE PERMIT TO AN ORGANIZATION TO HOLD RAFFLES AT MULTIPLE PROFESSIONAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAMES PLAYED IN BALTIMORE CITY.

(II) THERE IS NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF RAFFLES THAT AN ORGANIZATION MAY CONDUCT IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROFESSIONAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAMES PLAYED IN BALTIMORE CITY.

(2) A PERMIT TO HOLD RAFFLES AT MULTIPLE PROFESSIONAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAMES PLAYED IN BALTIMORE CITY EXPIRES AT THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR IN WHICH THE PERMIT IS ISSUED.

(E) AN ORGANIZATION CONDUCTING A RAFFLE MAY:

(1) SET THE PRICE OF RAFFLE TICKETS; AND

(2) AWARD PRIZES IN MERCHANDISE AND MONEY IN ANY AMOUNT.

(F) AN ORGANIZATION CONDUCTING A RAFFLE MAY NOT ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS TO:

(1) BENEFIT FINANCIALLY FROM THE RAFFLE; OR

(2) RECEIVE ANY OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE RAFFLE FOR PERSONAL USE OR BENEFIT.

(G) (1) A RAFFLE TICKET SOLD BY AN ORGANIZATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH A PROFESSIONAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME PLAYED IN BALTIMORE CITY:

(I) ~~SHALL~~ MAY ONLY BE SOLD USING ~~ONLY~~ AGE-VERIFICATION MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE BUYER IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD;

~~(H)~~ **(II)** MAY BE SOLD AND RECEIVED IN-PERSON OR ON AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE ONLY WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF BALTIMORE CITY DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

~~(H)~~ **(III)** SHALL BE SOLD AND RECEIVED NOT EARLIER THAN 1 HOUR BEFORE THE OFFICIAL START OF THE BASEBALL GAME AND NOT LATER THAN THE SEVENTH INNING OF THAT BASEBALL GAME.

(2) AN ORGANIZATION CONDUCTING A RAFFLE UNDER THIS SECTION;

(I) IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 12-108 OF THIS ARTICLE, PROVIDED THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT PURCHASE MORE THAN \$50 WORTH OF TICKETS OR MAKE MORE THAN ONE CREDIT TRANSACTION EACH DAY; AND

(II) SHALL USE A GEOFENCE TO ENSURE THAT RAFFLE TICKETS SOLD AND RECEIVED ON AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE ARE SOLD AND RECEIVED ~~WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF~~ WITHIN AN AREA IN BALTIMORE CITY THAT IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: FROM THE INTERSECTION OF WEST CAMDEN STREET AND SOUTH HOWARD STREET, SOUTH ON SOUTH HOWARD STREET TO WEST CONWAY STREET, WEST ON WEST CONWAY STREET TO SOUTH EUTAW STREET, SOUTH ON SOUTH EUTAW STREET TO WEST LEE STREET, WEST ON WEST LEE STREET TO RUSSELL STREET, NORTH ON RUSSELL STREET TO SOUTH PACA STREET, NORTHEAST ON SOUTH PACA STREET TO WEST CAMDEN STREET, AND EAST ON WEST CAMDEN STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF WEST CAMDEN STREET AND SOUTH HOWARD STREET.

13-510.

(a) A person may not knowingly conduct or attempt to conduct a bazaar or raffle in violation of §§ 13-503 through 13-505 **AND 13-505.1** of this subtitle.

(b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~3 years~~ 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of ~~May 31, 2028~~ June 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.