

HOUSE BILL 399

C7

5lr1963
CF SB 341

By: **Delegate Edelson**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Raffles – Organizations Affiliated With a Professional Major**
3 **League Baseball Team**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain organizations that are affiliated with a professional
5 major league baseball team that plays its home games in Baltimore City to conduct
6 certain raffles; requiring the organization to obtain a permit to conduct raffles from
7 an agency designated by the Baltimore City government; requiring that raffle tickets
8 are sold using age-verification measures to ensure that the buyer is at least a certain
9 age; authorizing a raffle ticket to be sold and received in person or on an electronic
10 device located within the geographical boundaries of ~~Baltimore City~~ the professional
11 major league baseball stadium; and generally relating to raffles in Baltimore City.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Criminal Law
14 Section 13–501, 13–503, 13–505, and 13–510
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Criminal Law
19 Section 13–505.1
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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.



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.**

13-503.

(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.

(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.

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

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

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

8 (2) The permit is not transferable.

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

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

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

14 13–505.

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

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

19 **13–505.1.**

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

21 **(1) IS LOCATED IN BALTIMORE CITY;**

22 **(2) SPENDS A MAJORITY OF THE ORGANIZATION’S FUNDS IN**
23 **BALTIMORE CITY FOR:**

24 **(I) FRATERNAL PURPOSES;**

25 **(II) CIVIC PURPOSES;**

26 **(III) PURPOSES RELATED TO A VETERANS’ HOSPITAL;**

27 **(IV) PURPOSES RELATED TO AMATEUR ATHLETICS; OR**

28 **(V) CHARITABLE PURPOSES; AND**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (E) AN ORGANIZATION CONDUCTING A RAFFLE MAY:

24 (1) SET THE PRICE OF RAFFLE TICKETS; AND

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

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

28 (1) BENEFIT FINANCIALLY FROM THE RAFFLE; OR

29 (2) RECEIVE ANY OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE RAFFLE FOR PERSONAL
30 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) MAY BE SOLD ONLY USING 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 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 ~~BALTIMORE CITY~~ THE PROFESSIONAL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM.

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 and, at the end of May 31, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.