

and Punishments," subheading "Gaming," to remove the limit on cash prizes for various games of chance in Wicomico County; to remove the requirement that a report filed under this section contain a reference to said cash prizes; to remove certain limitations on the number of permits issued for games of chance.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 256 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "Crimes and Punishments," subheading "Gaming," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

256.

(a) *Sheriff authorized to issue licenses to certain organizations.*—Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subtitle, the Sheriff of Wicomico County shall be authorized to issue licenses to conduct games of bingo, raffles and fire company carnivals, at which carnivals it shall be lawful to award prizes by such devices as are commonly designated as paddle wheels, wheels of fortune, chance books or bingo.

Organizations eligible for licenses as aforesaid are listed as follows:

(1) A tax-supported volunteer fire company or auxiliary unit of which the members thereof are directly associated with such fire company. Tax-supported volunteer fire companies shall be eligible for all types of licenses hereunder, including specifically a carnival license, at which only one wheel for cash prizes is authorized.

(2) A nationally chartered veterans' organization or auxiliary unit of which the members thereof are directly associated with such organization.

(3) A bona fide religious group which has conducted religious services at a fixed location in Wicomico County for a period of at least three years prior to the application to the Sheriff.

(4) A nonprofit organization desiring to raise money for an exclusively charitable, athletic or educational purpose specifically described in the application to the Sheriff. To qualify under this subsection a nonprofit organization must have been operating as such in Wicomico County for a period of at least three years prior to the application to the Sheriff.

(b) *Application for license.*—The application to the Sheriff for the issuance of said license shall contain a certification by one of the principal officers of the organizations stating the following:

(1) The time and place of the activities for which the license is sought.

(2) That the activities for which the license is sought will be solely and personally conducted, managed and operated by the regular members of the organization without the assistance of professionals and that no commission, salary, compensation, reward or recompense will be paid to any person for holding, operating or conducting, or assisting in the holding, operating, or conducting of a game of chance, bingo, raffle or carnival.