

MARYLAND, That new Section 255A be and it is hereby added to Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

255A.

(A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE CLERK OF THE COURT OF DORCHESTER COUNTY [[SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE LICENSES TO CONDUCT GAMES OF BINGO. ]] MAY ISSUE LICENSES ALLOWING CONDUCT OF GAMES OF BINGO IN ADDITION TO THOSE GAMES OF BINGO WHICH MAY BE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH A CARNIVAL, BAZAAR, OR RAFFLE. ORGANIZATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR BINGO LICENSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) A TAX-SUPPORTED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR AUXILIARY UNIT OF WHICH THE MEMBERS THEREOF ARE DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THAT FIRE COMPANY.

(2) A NATIONALLY CHARTERED VETERANS' ORGANIZATION OR AUXILIARY UNIT OF WHICH THE MEMBERS THEREOF ARE DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THAT ORGANIZATION.

(3) A BONA FIDE RELIGIOUS GROUP WHICH HAS CONDUCTED RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT A FIXED LOCATION IN DORCHESTER COUNTY FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST THREE YEARS PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT.

(4) A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DESIRING TO RAISE MONEY FOR AN EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE, ATHLETIC OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED IN THE APPLICATION TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT. TO QUALIFY SUCH ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN DORCHESTER COUNTY FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST THREE YEARS PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT.

(B) THE APPLICATION TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE SHALL CONTAIN A CERTIFICATION BY ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE ORGANIZATION STATING THE FOLLOWING:

(1) THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH THE LICENSE IS SOUGHT.

(2) THAT THE BINGO GAMES 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 THE GAMES.