

MARYLAND, That new Section 251B be and it is hereby added to Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

251B.

THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO MAKE IT UNLAWFUL FOR A BONAFIDE FRATERNAL, CIVIC, WAR VETERANS, RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL OR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION OR CORPORATION OR VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY IN WORCESTER COUNTY TO CONDUCT A RAFFLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF A CHARITY IN THAT COUNTY OR IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PURPOSES OF THAT ORGANIZATION, CORPORATION OR VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY[[ , ]]. HOWEVER, AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS MAY NOT BENEFIT PERSONALLY FROM THE HOLDING OF ANY RAFFLE. AT A RAFFLE IT SHALL BE LAWFUL TO AWARD PRIZES BY DEVICES COMMONLY KNOWN AS PADDLE WHEELS, WHEELS OF FORTUNE OR CHANCE BOOKS. A GROUP, ORGANIZATION, CORPORATION OR VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY MUST FIRST OBTAIN FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY A PERMIT, WHICH PROVIDES THAT THE RAFFLE BE MANAGED AND OPERATED ONLY BY MEMBERS OF THAT GROUP, ORGANIZATION, CORPORATION OR VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY PERSONALLY.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY ARE AUTHORIZED TO ADOPT AND AMEND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ISSUANCE OF RAFFLE PERMITS, TO CHARGE A FEE OF TEN DOLLARS FOR EACH RAFFLE PERMIT, TO REQUIRE A STATEMENT UNDER OATH AT THE CONCLUSION OF EACH RAFFLE TO BE FILED BY THE ORGANIZATION FOR WHOM A PERMIT HAS BEEN ISSUED, TO REGULATE THE NUMBER OF PERMITS WHICH MAY BE ISSUED TO A PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, TO PROVIDE THE GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL OF A PERMIT TO ANY ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS VIOLATED THE TERMS OF THIS SECTION OR OF THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO IT FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AND TO PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR DETERMINING WHETHER A GROUP, ORGANIZATION OR CORPORATION IS QUALIFIED TO OBTAIN A PERMIT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, AND TO PROVIDE WHEN A PARTICULAR RAFFLE MAY BE CONDUCTED.

A PERSON, GROUP, ORGANIZATION OR CORPORATION KNOWINGLY CONDUCTING OR ATTEMPTING TO CONDUCT A RAFFLE IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBJECT, UPON CONVICTION, TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000, OR IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE YEAR, OR BOTH.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.