

[251.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to make it unlawful for any bona fide fraternal, religious, patriotic, educational or charitable organizations or corporations, or volunteer fire companies, to conduct or operate a game of bingo for the benefit of charity in St. Mary's County, or in furtherance of the purpose of such organization, corporation or volunteer fire department.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That new Section 251 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

251.

(A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE SHERIFF OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY ~~[[MAY]]~~ SHALL ISSUE ~~[[LICENSES TO CONDUCT GAMES OF BINGO AND TO AWARD PRIZES.]]~~ AN ANNUAL NUMBERED LICENSE TO AN ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION TO CONDUCT GAMES OF BINGO AND TO AWARD PRIZES.

(B) ~~[[ORGANIZATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR THESE LICENSES ARE AS FOLLOWS]]~~ AN ORGANIZATION IS ELIGIBLE FOR A LICENSE IF IT IS:

(1) A VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OR VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD OR AUXILIARY UNIT OF WHICH THE MEMBERS ARE ASSOCIATED DIRECTLY WITH THAT FIRE COMPANY OR RESCUE SQUAD. TAX-SUPPORTED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES OR VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ALL TYPES OF LICENSES UNDER THIS SECTION ALSO.

(2) A NATIONALLY CHARTERED VETERANS' ORGANIZATION OR AN AUXILIARY UNIT WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ASSOCIATED DIRECTLY WITH THE ORGANIZATION.

(3) A BONA FIDE RELIGIOUS GROUP WHICH HAS CONDUCTED RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT A FIXED LOCATION IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY FOR A PERIOD OF AT ~~[[LEAST]]~~ LEAST THREE YEARS PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION TO THE SHERIFF.

(4) A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH DESIRES 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 SHALL HAVE BEEN OPERATING AS SUCH IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST THREE YEARS PRIOR TO THE APPLICATION TO THE SHERIFF.

(C) THE APPLICATION TO THE SHERIFF FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE SHALL CONTAIN A CERTIFICATION BY