

Section 255
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1982 Replacement Volume and 1983 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

255.

(a) This subtitle may not be construed to make it unlawful for any volunteer fire company or bona fide fraternal, civic, war veterans', religious or charitable organization or corporation in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot and Washington counties to conduct or hold a carnival, bazaar, or raffle for the exclusive benefit of any such volunteer fire company or fraternal, civic, war veterans', religious or charitable organization or corporation, if no individual or group of individuals benefits financially from the holding of any bazaar, carnival, or raffle or receives or is paid any of the proceeds from any carnival, bazaar, or raffle, for personal use or benefit. It shall be lawful for such organization or corporation to award prizes in cash or in merchandise by such devices as are commonly designated as paddle wheels, wheels of fortune, chance books, bingo, or any other gaming device, provided however that any carnivals, bazaars, or raffles shall be managed by the members of such group, organization or corporation personally through its members, and further provided that in Carroll County the use of paddle wheels shall be subject to the restrictions of § 258 of this article.

(b) In Charles County a volunteer fire company, or bona fide fraternal, civic, war veterans', religious or charitable organization or corporation may conduct or hold any carnival, bazaar, raffle, or card party in accordance with subsection (a) of this section if the County Commissioners of Charles County grant a permit which specifies the nature of the gambling device and the frequency with which the carnival, bazaar, raffle, or card party shall be held. A person under the age of 18 may not participate in the activities described in this section. The County Commissioners may charge a reasonable fee for the issuance of the permit.

(c) In St. Mary's County, a volunteer fire company or bona fide fraternal, civic, war veterans', religious, or charitable organization or corporation may conduct or hold a carnival, bazaar, or raffle and may operate gaming devices which are commonly designated as paddle wheels, wheels of fortune, chance books, bingo, Nevada cards, stamp machines, or any other gaming device, excluding slot machines as defined in § 264B of this article, if no individual or group of individuals benefits