

would be presently created if I signed the bill into law, it would be next to impossible in future years to rationally distinguish and limit slot machines to those counties and those organizations covered by Senate Bill 774. Slot machines will again become a local political issue. Even assuming that the reintroduction of slot machine gambling in Maryland is a desirable social goal (which I do not), the local regulatory approach suggested by this bill invites uneven law enforcement and corruption. Moreover, the failure of the bill to precisely define eligible organizations or address the issue of control of minors and nonmembers on the premises presents additional concerns and creates the potential for widespread abuse.

The serious problems associated with this bill far outweigh any short-term monetary benefits to the nonprofit organizations or charities. I am confident that these groups will be able to raise necessary monies through more traditional fund raising activities. The inevitable expansion of slot machine gambling that would be triggered by this bill is simply inconsistent with my vision of an industrious, resourceful, and progressive Maryland. This legislation will do little, if anything, to improve the fine quality of life in our State; to the contrary, my fear is that it will have the exact opposite effect.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor

Senate Bill No. 218

AN ACT concerning

Slot Machines - Nonprofit Organizations

FOR the purpose of permitting certain nonprofit organizations to own or operate a slot machine under certain circumstances in certain counties on the Eastern Shore; requiring a slot machine to meet certain conditions and certain records to be maintained for a slot machine to be eligible for use under this Act; requiring an eligible organization to make a certain report under affidavit to the State Comptroller; providing for the licensing of certain nonprofit organizations by application in the county in which the organization plans to locate the slot machine; requiring certain affidavits from certain persons; prohibiting the misrepresentation of certain information on the application; providing for a penalty for any misrepresentation on the application; requiring a license sticker to be placed on the slot machine; defining a certain term; and generally relating to certain nonprofit organizations owning or operating slot machines.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
Section 264B