

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.

(b) (1) 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 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.

(2) The organization or corporation may 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.

(3) However, carnivals, bazaars, or raffles shall be managed by the members of such group, organization or corporation personally through its members. In Carroll County the use of paddle wheels shall be subject to the restrictions of § 258 of this article.

(1) IN CALVERT 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, OR RAFFLE GAMING EVENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALVERT COUNTY GRANT A PERMIT THAT SPECIFIES THE NATURE OF THE GAMBLING GAMING DEVICE AND THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THE CARNIVAL, BAZAAR, OR RAFFLE GAMING EVENT SHALL BE HELD. ~~A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION~~ THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL APPOINT A GAMBLING PERMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF 5 MEMBERS. THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMULGATING REGULATIONS, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSIONERS, PERTAINING TO GAMBLING ACTIVITIES AND THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY CHARGE A REASONABLE FEE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE PERMIT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each