

(1987 Replacement Volume and 1988 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

[253A.

(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to make it unlawful for any bona fide fraternal, religious, patriotic, educational, or charitable organization or charitable corporation, or volunteer fire company, or any carnival acting under the auspices of any such organization, corporation or company, to conduct or operate a game of bingo or a raffle for the benefit of charity in Charles County, or in furtherance of the purposes of such organization, corporation or volunteer fire company. No such bingo game shall award a cash prize in excess of \$50 to any player of a bingo game, except that the award of a "jackpot" in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 is allowed when directly connected with the playing of bingo games.

(2) It is unlawful to operate bingo games under paragraph (1) of this subsection more than 4 days in a 7-day period or more than 3 consecutive days at any one facility or location.

(b) It is unlawful for any individual, copartnership, corporation or any group or organization, whether or not legal residents of Charles County, to operate any game of bingo or raffle in Charles County, for personal gain.]

253A.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "BOARD" MEANS THE CHARLES COUNTY GAMING PERMIT REVIEW BOARD.

(3) "COUNTY" MEANS CHARLES COUNTY.

(4) "FUND-RAISING ORGANIZATION" MEANS A BONA FIDE FRATERNAL, CIVIC, WAR VETERANS', RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, RESCUE SQUAD, OR AMBULANCE COMPANY. A FUND-RAISING ORGANIZATION NEED NOT BE INCORPORATED.

(5) (I) "GAMING DEVICE" INCLUDES PADDLE WHEELS, WHEELS OF FORTUNE, CHANCE BOOKS, AND ANY MECHANISM FOR PLAYING A GAME OF CHANCE.