

Section 256A

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 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

256.

(a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subtitle, the Sheriff of Wicomico County is authorized to issue licenses to conduct games at which it shall be lawful to award prizes in cash or merchandise by such devices as are commonly designated as paddle wheels, wheels of fortune, chance books, bingo, raffles or any other gaming device.

Organizations eligible TO APPLY TO THE SHERIFF for licenses as provided in this section are listed as follows:

[(1)] (I) A tax-supported volunteer fire company or auxiliary unit of which the members thereof are directly associated with such fire company[.];

[(2)] (II) A nationally chartered veterans' organization or auxiliary unit of which the members thereof are directly associated with such organization AND THAT HAS BEEN LOCATED IN WICOMICO COUNTY FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE APPLICATION TO THE SHERIFF[.];

[(3)] (III) A bona fide religious group which has conducted religious services at a fixed location in Wicomico County for a period of at least [three] 5 years IMMEDIATELY prior to the application to the Sheriff[.];

(IV) A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3) OR § 501(C)(4) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE AND HAS BEEN LOCATED IN WICOMICO COUNTY FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE APPLICATION TO THE SHERIFF;

(V) A NONPROFIT FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(10) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE AND HAS BEEN LOCATED IN WICOMICO COUNTY FOR AT LEAST 5 YEARS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE APPLICATION TO THE SHERIFF; AND

[(4)] (VI) [A] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A nonprofit organization [desiring] THAT DESIRES to raise money for an exclusively charitable, athletic [or], OR educational purpose specifically described in the application to the Sheriff[. To qualify under this subsection a nonprofit organization must have] AND HAS been operating as such in Wicomico County for a period of at least [three years prior to] 5 YEARS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE the application to the Sheriff.

(2) TO QUALIFY UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(VI) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE CHARITABLE, ATHLETIC, OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE: