

# HOUSE BILL 1149

C7

8lr3019

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By: **Delegates Mathias and Conway**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2008

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Worcester County – Bingo**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain fees and prize amounts for bingo conducted in  
4 Worcester County; repealing a prohibition against conducting bingo outside the  
5 election district in which the main office, headquarters, or usual meeting place  
6 of the applicant for a bingo license is located; authorizing a certain bingo prize  
7 to be awarded without a prize limit; repealing prohibitions against conducting  
8 bingo on Sunday and using certain forms of advertising; and generally relating  
9 to bingo conducted in Worcester County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Criminal Law  
12 Section 13–2605  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Criminal Law  
17 Section 13–2610 and 13–2611  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

20 BY repealing  
21 Article – Criminal Law  
22 Section 13–2612  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Criminal Law**

2 13–2605.

3 In this part, “board” means the Worcester County Bingo Board.

4 13–2610.

5 (a) An organization or municipal corporation described in § 13–2606 of this  
6 subtitle that intends to conduct bingo under this part must obtain:7 (1) an annual license to conduct bingo for more than 15 days in a year;  
8 or

9 (2) a temporary license to conduct bingo for 15 days or fewer in a year.

10 (b) (1) An applicant for a license shall submit to the board an application  
11 on the form that the board by regulation requires.

12 (2) The application form shall require:

13 (i) the name of the applicant;

14 (ii) the name of each principal officer of the applicant; and

15 (iii) a certification that no person will conduct bingo except a  
16 person who:17 1. is a salaried employee or bona fide member of the  
18 applicant; and

19 2. shall not receive any form of commission or bonus.

20 (c) (1) An applicant shall pay to the board a license fee of:

21 (i) \$100 for an annual license; or

22 (ii) **FOR A TEMPORARY LICENSE:**23 **1. [\$3] A \$25 MINIMUM FEE; AND**24 **2. A \$5 FEE** for each day bingo is conducted [for a  
25 temporary license].26 (2) The board shall pay to the county commissioners all license fees  
27 collected under this part.

1 (d) The board shall issue a license to each applicant who meets the  
2 requirements of this part and the regulations adopted under this part.

3 [(e) A license may not be issued to an applicant to conduct bingo outside the  
4 election district in which the main office, headquarters, or usual meeting place of the  
5 applicant is located.]

6 [(f)] (E) If an applicant conducts bingo on premises that are leased by the  
7 applicant, the lease agreement must be approved by the board before a license may be  
8 issued.

9 [(g)] (F) The board may deny a license to an applicant or suspend or revoke  
10 a license if the applicant or licensee has violated this part or any regulation adopted  
11 under this part.

12 13-2611.

13 (a) The charge for admission to a place in order to participate in bingo  
14 conducted under this part may not exceed [~~\$1~~] **\$5**.

15 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the value of  
16 a prize in money, merchandise, or services for any one game of bingo conducted under  
17 this part may not exceed [~~\$50~~] **\$200**.

18 (2) Jackpot prizes may be offered in a maximum amount of [~~\$1,000~~]  
19 **\$5,000**.

20 (3) **WINNER-TAKE-ALL PRIZES MAY BE OFFERED WITHOUT A**  
21 **PRIZE LIMIT.**

22 (c) A licensee's employees and the terms of their employment must be  
23 approved by the board before they may conduct bingo under this part.

24 (d) A minor may not be allowed to participate in bingo conducted under this  
25 part.

26 (e) [Bingo may not be conducted under this part on Sunday.

27 (f)] Bingo may not be conducted under this part in a room or area where  
28 alcoholic beverages are sold or served during the game.

29 [(g)](F) A licensee under this part may not conduct bingo on more than 125  
30 days in a year.

31 [13-2612.

1           (a)    Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person may not  
2 advertise the location or time of bingo, or the prizes awarded or to be awarded, by:

3                   (1)    radio, television, or sound systems;

4                   (2)    billboards, posters, or handbills; or

5                   (3)    any other means addressed to the public.

6           (b)    (1)    Unless otherwise prohibited by county or municipal law, one sign  
7 not exceeding 36 square feet, stating that bingo will be conducted, may be displayed on  
8 or adjacent to the premises where bingo will be conducted.

9                   (2)    In accordance with regulations adopted under § 13-2608 of this  
10 subtitle, notice that bingo will be conducted may be posted on a bulletin board or  
11 included on a poster inside a hotel, motel, restaurant, or store that is located in the  
12 election district in which the game will be conducted.]

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2008.