

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 545
Ways and Means

(Delegate Shoemaker, *et al.*)

Gaming - Home Games - Bingo

This bill adds bingo to the list of home games that an individual may conduct as specified under current law.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. No longer assessing monetary and/or incarceration penalties for bingo home game violations does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None. It is assumed that incarceration penalties for bingo home game violations are rarely assessed, so local finances are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: An individual who is at least 21 years old may conduct a home game involving wagering if the home game (1) is limited to mah jong or a card game; (2) is conducted not more than once a week in the individual's home or in a common area of a residential property that is restricted to residents age 55 or older; (3) allows a player to compete directly against one or more other players who share a preexisting social relationship; (4) does not allow an individual to benefit financially in any way, directly or indirectly, other than from the winnings accrued by participating as a player in the game; and (5) has a \$1,000 limit on the total amount of money, tokens representing money, or any other thing or consideration of value that may be wagered by all players during any 24-hour period. The home game may not involve a player's use of an electronic device

that connects to the Internet, the use of paid public advertising or promotions, the charging of specified fees, or the use of any money except money used for wagering.

A qualified organization is not prevented from conducting a gaming event for the exclusive benefit of a qualified organization if an individual or a group of individuals does not benefit financially from the gaming event or receive any of the proceeds from the gaming event for personal use or benefit.

A person who violates betting, wagering, and gambling laws is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment for six months to one year and/or a fine of \$200 to \$1,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Comptroller's Office; Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2017
mm/jrb

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