

# SENATE BILL 538

C7

(6lr2014)

## ENROLLED BILL

— Budget and Taxation / Ways and Means —

Introduced by **Senator McCray**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

### CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Raffles – Organizations Affiliated With Professional Baseball**  
3 **and Football Teams**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain organizations that are affiliated with a professional  
5 National Football League team that plays its home games in Baltimore City to  
6 conduct certain raffles, subject to certain limitations; ~~repealing~~ extending a certain  
7 termination date of certain provisions of law authorizing certain organizations that  
8 are affiliated with a professional Major League Baseball team that plays its home  
9 games in Baltimore City to conduct certain raffles; and generally relating to raffles  
10 in Baltimore City.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Criminal Law  
13 Section 13–501, 13–503, and 13–505  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland

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#### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.*



1 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
3 Article – Criminal Law  
4 Section 13–505.1  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Chapter 372 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025  
9 Section 2

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

12 **Article – Criminal Law**

13 13–501.

14 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

15 (b) “Commissioner” means the Baltimore City Police Commissioner.

16 (c) “Designated city agency” means an agency designated by the Baltimore City  
17 government.

18 (d) (1) “Electronic device” means a device that is capable of transmitting,  
19 receiving, or recording messages, images, sounds, data, or other information by electronic  
20 means or that, in appearance, purports to be a cell phone, computer, or other such device.

21 (2) “Electronic device” includes a cell phone or computer.

22 (3) “Electronic device” does not include a video lottery terminal as defined  
23 under § 9–1A–01 of the State Government Article.

24 (e) “Gaming event” means a carnival, bazaar, or raffle.

25 (f) (1) “Geofence” means technology that establishes a virtual geographical  
26 boundary.

27 (2) “Geofence” includes boundaries that are established or monitored  
28 through the use of:

29 (i) global positioning technology;

30 (ii) cell tower connectivity;

- 1 (iii) cellular data;
- 2 (iv) radio frequency identification;
- 3 (v) wireless fidelity technology; or
- 4 (vi) any other form of location determination technology.

5 (g) "Raffle" means one or more drawings from a single series of chances sold.

6 13-503.

7 (a) This section does not apply to a raffle authorized under § 13-505.1 of this  
8 subtitle.

9 (b) Before an organization listed in subsection (c) of this section may operate a  
10 gaming event, the organization shall obtain a permit from the commissioner.

11 (c) (1) An organization that meets the conditions of paragraph (2) of this  
12 subsection may conduct a gaming event for the benefit of any of the following listed  
13 organizations if the organization is a bona fide:

- 14 (i) religious organization;
- 15 (ii) fraternal organization;
- 16 (iii) civic organization;
- 17 (iv) veterans' hospital;
- 18 (v) amateur athletic organization in which all playing members are  
19 under the age of 18 years; or
- 20 (vi) charitable organization.

21 (2) An organization conducting a gaming event shall:

- 22 (i) be located in Baltimore City; and
- 23 (ii) spend a majority of the organization's funds in Baltimore City  
24 for:
  - 25 1. fraternal purposes;
  - 26 2. civic purposes;
  - 27 3. purposes related to a veterans' hospital;

1 4. purposes related to amateur athletics; or

2 5. charitable purposes.

3 (d) (1) Before the commissioner may issue a permit, the commissioner shall  
4 review the character of the organization applying for the permit to ascertain that the  
5 organization meets the requirements of §§ 13–503 through 13–505 of this subtitle.

6 (2) The commissioner shall make any application for a permit and the  
7 action taken by the commissioner on that application a matter of public record.

8 (e) (1) The permit shall state that the gaming event shall be managed and  
9 operated personally only by members of the organization obtaining the permit.

10 (2) The permit is not transferable.

11 (f) An organization conducting a gaming event in Baltimore City may not allow  
12 an individual or group of individuals to:

13 (1) benefit financially from the gaming event; or

14 (2) receive any of the proceeds of the gaming event for personal use or  
15 benefit.

16 13–505.

17 (a) A permit holder may award prizes in merchandise and money in a raffle in  
18 any amount.

19 (b) Except as provided in § 13–505.1(d)(1)(ii) of this subtitle, a permit holder may  
20 not conduct more than 12 raffles in a calendar year.

21 13–505.1.

22 (a) A raffle may be conducted by an organization that:

23 (1) is located in Baltimore City;

24 (2) spends a majority of the organization's funds in Baltimore City for:

25 (i) fraternal purposes;

26 (ii) civic purposes;

27 (iii) purposes related to a veterans' hospital;

1 (iv) purposes related to amateur athletics; or

2 (v) charitable purposes; and

3 (3) is affiliated with:

4 (I) a professional Major League Baseball team that plays its home  
5 games in Baltimore City; **OR**

6 (II) **A PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAM**  
7 **THAT PLAYS ITS HOME GAMES IN BALTIMORE CITY.**

8 (b) (1) Before conducting a raffle, an organization shall obtain a written permit  
9 from the designated city agency.

10 (2) Before issuing a permit, the designated city agency shall ascertain the  
11 character of the organization to determine if the permit should be issued.

12 (c) (1) A permit issued to an organization under this section may not be  
13 transferred.

14 (2) The permit shall state that the raffle is required to be managed and  
15 operated only by members of the organization obtaining the permit.

16 (d) (1) (i) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the designated city  
17 agency may issue a single permit to an organization to hold raffles at multiple professional  
18 Major League Baseball **OR PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE** games  
19 played in Baltimore City.

20 (ii) There is no limit on the number of raffles that an organization  
21 may conduct in conjunction with professional Major League Baseball **OR PROFESSIONAL**  
22 **NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE** games played in Baltimore City.

23 (2) A permit to hold raffles at multiple professional Major League Baseball  
24 **OR PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE** games played in Baltimore City  
25 expires [at the end of the calendar year in] **1 YEAR AFTER THE DATE ON** which the permit  
26 is issued.

27 (e) An organization conducting a raffle may:

28 (1) set the price of raffle tickets; and

29 (2) award prizes in merchandise and money in any amount.

30 (f) An organization conducting a raffle may not allow an individual or group of  
31 individuals to:

1 (1) benefit financially from the raffle; or

2 (2) receive any of the proceeds of the raffle for personal use or benefit.

3 (g) (1) A raffle ticket sold by an organization in conjunction with a professional  
4 Major League Baseball **OR PROFESSIONAL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE** game played  
5 in Baltimore City:

6 (i) may only be sold using age-verification measures to ensure that  
7 the buyer is at least 18 years old;

8 (ii) may be sold and received in-person or on an electronic device  
9 only within the geographical boundaries described in paragraph (2) of this subsection; and

10 (iii) **1. WITH RESPECT TO A RAFFLE CONDUCTED BY AN**  
11 **ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3)(I) OF THIS SECTION**, shall be  
12 sold and received not earlier than 1 hour before the official start of the baseball game and  
13 not later than the seventh inning of that baseball game; **OR**

14 **2. WITH RESPECT TO A RAFFLE CONDUCTED BY AN**  
15 **ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3)(II) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL**  
16 **BE SOLD AND RECEIVED NOT EARLIER THAN 4.5 HOURS BEFORE THE OFFICIAL**  
17 **START OF THE FOOTBALL GAME AND NOT LATER THAN THE THIRD QUARTER OF**  
18 **THAT FOOTBALL GAME.**

19 (2) An organization conducting a raffle under this section:

20 (i) is not subject to § 12-108 of this article, provided that an  
21 individual may not purchase more than \$50 worth of tickets or make more than one credit  
22 transaction each day; and

23 (ii) shall use a geofence to ensure that raffle tickets sold and received  
24 on an electronic device are sold and received within an area in Baltimore City that is  
25 bounded as follows:

26 **1. WITH RESPECT TO A RAFFLE CONDUCTED BY AN**  
27 **ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3)(I) OF THIS SECTION DURING**  
28 **A BASEBALL GAME**, from the intersection of West Camden Street and South Howard  
29 Street, south on South Howard Street to West Conway Street, west on West Conway Street  
30 to South Eutaw Street, south on South Eutaw Street to West Lee Street, west on West Lee  
31 Street to Russell Street, north on Russell Street to South Paca Street, northeast on South  
32 Paca Street to West Camden Street, and east on West Camden Street to the intersection of  
33 West Camden Street and South Howard Street; **AND**

1                               2.     WITH RESPECT TO A RAFFLE CONDUCTED BY AN  
 2 ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3)(II) OF THIS SECTION  
 3 DURING A FOOTBALL GAME, FROM THE INTERSECTION OF WEST CAMDEN STREET  
 4 AND SOUTH HOWARD STREET, WEST ON WEST CAMDEN STREET TO WASHINGTON  
 5 BOULEVARD, SOUTHWEST ON WASHINGTON BOULEVARD TO WEST BARRE STREET,  
 6 SOUTH ON WEST BARRE STREET TO CARROLL STREET, NORTHEAST ON CARROLL  
 7 STREET TO SOUTH PACA STREET, SOUTH ON SOUTH PACA STREET TO WEST  
 8 OSTEND STREET, INCLUDING THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF 701 WEST OSTEND  
 9 STREET, EAST ON THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF 701 WEST OSTEND STREET TO  
 10 RIDGELY STREET, NORTH ON RIDGELY STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF WEST  
 11 OSTEND STREET AND RIDGELY STREET, EAST ON WEST OSTEND STREET TO CAL  
 12 RIPKEN WAY, NORTH ON CAL RIPKEN WAY TO SOUTH HOWARD STREET, AND  
 13 NORTH ON SOUTH HOWARD STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF SOUTH HOWARD  
 14 STREET AND WEST CAMDEN STREET.

15   Chapter 372 of the Acts of 2025

16             SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
 17 1, 2025. ~~It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month~~ ~~6 YEARS~~ **4 YEARS AND**  
 18 **1 MONTH** and, at the end of ~~June 30, 2026~~ ~~MAY 31, 2031~~ **JUNE 30, 2029**, this Act, with  
 19 no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further  
 20 force and effect.†

21             SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
 22 1, 2026. It shall remain effective until the taking effect of the termination provision  
 23 specified in Section 2 of Chapter 372 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025. If that  
 24 termination provision takes effect, this Act, with no further action required by the General  
 25 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. This Act may not be  
 26 interpreted to have any effect on that termination provision.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.