

BINGO

IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

Annotated Code of Maryland – Criminal Law
Title 13, Subtitle 6, Section 13-606



[Definition: Department - “Department” means the Baltimore County Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections]

- a) **License Required;** - Before an organization may conduct bingo in Baltimore County, the qualified organization shall obtain a bingo license from the Department.
- b) **Qualified Organizations** - An organization may conduct bingo to benefit charity in Baltimore County or to further its purposes if the organization is:
 - 1) A tax-supported volunteer fire company or an auxiliary unit whose members are directly associated with a tax-supported volunteer fire company;
 - 2) A nationally chartered veterans' organization or an auxiliary unit whose members are directly associated with a nationally chartered veterans' organization;
 - 3) A bona fide religious group, that has conducted religious services at a fixed location in Baltimore County for at least 3 years before applying for a bingo license;
 - 4) The Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society.
 - 5) A bona fide fraternal organization.
 - 6) A bona fide patriotic organization.
 - 7) A bona fide charitable organization that has been located at a fixed location in Baltimore County for 3 years before applying for a bingo license.

c) **Application -**

- 1) An applicant for a bingo license shall apply for a license on the application form that the Department provides:
- 2) The application shall include:
 - i) the name of the applicant;
 - ii) the name and address of each officer and director of the applicant;
 - iii) a complete statement of the purposes of the applicant;
 - iv) a statement of the purpose for which the proceeds of the bingo operation will be used;
 - v) an affidavit that an agreement does not exist to divide any part of the proceeds of the bingo operation with any other person that is made by:
 - 1. the president;
 - 2. the treasurer;
 - 3. the chief executive; or
 - 4. a fiscal officer;
 - vi) an affidavit that only the applicant or a member of the applicant will receive any of the proceeds of the bingo operation except to further the purposes of the applicant organizations; and
 - vii) any other information as the Department requires.

d) **License -**

- 1) i) An annual license issued by the Department authorizes the license holder to conduct bingo at the fixed location stated on the license:
 - 1. at any time during the year for which the license is issued; but
 - 2. not more often than twice each week in the year for which the license is issued.
- ii) An applicant for an annual license shall pay the fee that the Department sets.
- 2) i) A temporary license issued by the Department authorizes the license holder to conduct bingo at the fixed location stated on the license for not more than 10 days in the year for which the license is issued.
- ii) An applicant for a temporary license shall pay the fee that the administrative officer of the county sets.
- 3) i) A one-day license issued by the Department authorizes the license holder to conduct bingo at a fixed location stated on the license for not more than one day in the year for which the license is issued.
- ii) An applicant for a 1-day license shall pay a fee that the administrative officer of the county sets.
- iii) The Department may not grant an applicant more than three 1-day licenses in any calendar year.

e) **Conditions and Limitations -**

- 1) The Department may require the holder of a bingo license to produce its financial records for inspection so that the Department may ensure that the license holder and the members of the license holder have complied with subsection “c) 2) v)” and “c) 2) vi)” of this section.
- 2) A person may not conduct bingo on Sunday.
- f) **Proceeds of License** - The Department shall deposit the fees paid for bingo licenses issued under this section in the county Widows’ Pension Fund.
- g) **Revocation of License** - After a public hearing, the Department may revoke the license of a license holder that fails to comply with this section or with the regulations that the Department adopts under this section.
- h) **Regulations** - The Department may adopt regulations to govern:
 - 1) the conduct of bingo;
 - 2) the amounts of the prizes that may be awarded in a game of bingo;
 - 3) the method of awarding prizes;
 - 4) the hours that bingo may be conducted; and
 - 5) any other matters related to the proper conduct of bingo.

i) **Prohibited Acts; Penalty -**

- 1) A person may not divert or pay any proceeds of bingo conducted under a bingo license to:
 - i) 1. any other person, except to a member of the license holder; or
 - 2. any other partnership or corporation, except to further the purposes of the license holder.
- ii) A person who is not a member of a license holder may not receive any of the proceeds of bingo conducted under a bingo license except to further the purposes of the license holder
- iii) A person may not violate a regulation that the Department adopts under subsection “h)” of this section.
- 2) A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 or both. (Annotated Code of Maryland 1957, Article. 27 & 252 (a)-(1); 2002, Chapter. 26, section 2.)

BINGO RULES AND REGULATIONS

Any word or term not defined in this section shall have the ordinarily accepted definition as set forth in the most recent edition of Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged. (Bill No. 149, 1987.)

1. **Application** - Applications for a bingo license shall be made on forms provided by the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections. [Current fees are listed on the Bingo License Application.]
2. **Qualified Organization Authority** - Each applicant/licensee will be required to file (and keep current) with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections, a copy of the organization's by-laws, corporate charter, and/or any document necessary to substantiate information requested on the application, and to evidence the legal authority of the individual(s) signing the Financial Summation Sheets on behalf of the organization.
3. **Special Agreements Restricted** -
 - a. Applicants/licensees may not enter into any contract or agreement with a game operator without prior approval of the contract or agreement by the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections.
 - b. Once the contract or agreement is approved, a copy must be kept on file by the department.
 - c. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the rejection of the application or suspension of the license until compliance is fulfilled.
4. **Bingo Games; When Held Restricted** -
 - a. No annual license holder will be allowed to conduct bingo games more than twice in any one week.
 - b. Temporary license holders will be allowed to conduct bingo games any ten days during the license year except Sundays.
 - c. No One-Day, Temporary or Annual license holder may sponsor a bingo event in the same location and on the same date as a bingo event sponsored by any other license holder.
5. **Advertising** -
 - a. Signs, newspaper advertising and/or distribution of handbills or posters advertising the game of bingo shall be permitted, but no designation of prize money will be allowed in any form of advertisement.
 - b. All advertisements will include the identity of the licensee sponsoring the event.
 - c. Distribution of all such handbills and posters shall not be permitted within a 500 foot radius of any other licensed bingo premises or establishment in Baltimore County.
6. **Intoxicating Beverages Prohibited** - No intoxicating beverages or substances will be allowed in any hall in which bingo is being played.
7. **Prize Awards** -
 - a. The maximum monetary value of all prizes awarded during any one date (Monday through Friday) in a specific location, shall not exceed \$2,800.00 for regular bingo games and an additional \$200.00 for a special jackpot game. The special jackpot game will not be permitted to build and cannot exceed \$200.00.

- b. The maximum monetary value of all prizes awarded at a specific location on Saturday shall not exceed \$4,000.00 including the special \$200.00 jackpot.
8. **Other Games of Chance** -
 - a. Other games of chance and gaming devices, excluding slot machines, card games, dice and roulette, may be offered in conjunction with other customary bingo games. However, a separate "Gaming Permit" must be obtained.
 - b. Prizes awarded for other games of chance are not included in regular daily bingo prize limits.
9. **Giveaways or Incentives** - The total value of all door prizes added together may not exceed \$50.00. No other promotions, giveaways or incentives of any kind used to encourage people to take part in the game of bingo will be permitted prior to actual play, during actual play, or following actual play.
10. **Financial Summation Sheet Required** -
 - a. All bingo license holders are required to submit to the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections a financial summation sheet showing name of the organization, bingo license number, date game is played, location where game is played, the attendance, amount of monies received, amount of prizes awarded, all out-of-pocket expenses (itemized), and the net gain or loss for the event.
 - b. Summation sheets must be submitted to the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections not later than 4 days after the game is played.
 - c. A member of the sponsoring organization possessing the power to bind the organization by legal contract must witness all bingo games and must sign the summation sheets and affirm their accuracy under penalty of perjury.
 - d. Summation sheets will be provided by the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections to the licensees.
11. **Posting of Rules and Regulations Required** - Copies of these rules and regulations must be posted in a conspicuous place where bingo games are played.
12. **Penalty for Violation of Bingo Rules and Regulation** - Violation of the bingo rules and regulations may result in the suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew bingo licenses, [in addition to the penalties provided for in the Annotated Code of Maryland – Criminal Law: Title 13, Subtitle 6, Section 13-606.i.2].

**THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE
CONDUCT OF BINGO IN BALTIMORE COUNTY ARE
SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

BALTIMORE COUNTY



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REGULATIONS

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