

176. (a) Nothing contained in Article 27, Sections 288 to 307, inclusive, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "Gaming", shall be construed as prohibiting, penalizing or making unlawful the keeping, maintenance, operation or distribution for operation, in Calvert County, by any person, firm or corporation, on and after July 1, 1948, of any mechanical or electrical amusement devices which require the insertion of a coin or token for their operation and which offer an award to the operator based in whole or in part upon chance or his skill, provided that said mechanical or electrical amusement devices or machines are licensed by the person, firm or corporation who owns or operates the premises upon which said amusement devices are maintained for the use of the public as hereinafter provided in this sub-title. Provided, however, that any bona fide charitable or veterans organization and any bona fide fire company may own and operate not more than four such devices for which no license fee shall be required where all the proceeds of such devices are devoted to the exclusive benefit of such organization or company and such devices are maintained solely in the club room or regular meeting place of such organization or company.

(b) No person, firm or corporation shall be granted a license hereunder unless such person or persons comprising the firm, or in the case of a corporation, the majority of the voting stockholders, are shown affirmatively to be bona fide property owners on July 1, 1948, or are registered voters in said County.

177. (a) Any person, firm or corporation who owns or operates, whether as owner, lessee or licensee, the premises upon which it is desired to maintain any amusement devices described in Sub-section (a) of Section 176 hereof, may obtain a license therefor upon application to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County upon forms prescribed for that purpose by the said clerk and upon payment of the prescribed annual license fee of \$150.00 for each such machine not exceeding four. If the applicant wishes to maintain and operate more than four such machines on the same premises, he shall also secure the distributors license of \$1,000.00, in addition to the \$150.00 fee for each machine.

(b) Any person, firm or corporation who does not desire to maintain and operate any such amusement devices but merely to sell or lease the same, may obtain a license therefor upon application to the said Clerk of Court and upon the payment of an annual license fee of \$1,000.00, which license shall only authorize him to sell or lease such amusement machines or devices to licensees for the maintenance and operation of such amusement machines under a license authorized by this sub-title, except as authorized in Sub-section (a) of this section.