

1 AN ACT concerning gaming.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Bingo License and Tax Act is amended by  
5 changing Sections 1.1 and 2 and by adding Section 2.5 as  
6 follows:

7 (230 ILCS 25/1.1)

8 Sec. 1.1. Definitions. For purposes of this Act, the  
9 following definitions apply:

10 "Bingo" means a game in which each player has a card or  
11 board for which a consideration has been paid, containing 5  
12 horizontal rows of spaces, with each row except the central one  
13 containing 5 figures. The central row has 4 figures with the  
14 word "free" marked in the center space. "Bingo" includes games  
15 that otherwise qualify under this paragraph, except for the use  
16 of cards where the figures are not preprinted but are filled in  
17 by the players. A player wins a game of bingo by completing a  
18 preannounced combination of spaces or, in the absence of a  
19 preannouncement of a combination of spaces, any combination of  
20 5 spaces in a row, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.

21 "Bingo equipment" means any equipment or machinery  
22 designed or used for the play of bingo. "Bingo equipment" does  
23 not include electronic equipment.

1 "Charitable organization" means an organization or  
2 institution organized and operated to benefit an indefinite  
3 number of the public.

4 "Department" means the Department of Revenue.

5 "Educational organization" means an organization or  
6 institution organized and operated to provide systematic  
7 instruction in useful branches of learning by methods common to  
8 schools and institutions of learning which compare favorably in  
9 their scope and intensity with the course of study presented in  
10 tax-supported schools.

11 "Fraternal organization" means an organization of persons  
12 having a common interest that is organized and operated  
13 exclusively to promote the welfare of its members and to  
14 benefit the general public on a continuing and consistent  
15 basis, including but not limited to ethnic organizations.

16 "Holiday" means any of the holidays listed in Section 17 of  
17 the Promissory Note and Bank Holiday Act.

18 "Labor organization" means an organization composed of  
19 labor unions or workers organized with the objectives of  
20 betterment of the conditions of those engaged in such pursuit  
21 and the development of a higher degree of efficiency in their  
22 respective occupations.

23 "Licensed organization" means a qualified organization  
24 that has obtained a license to conduct bingo in conformance  
25 with the provisions of this Act.

26 "Limited license" means a license issued to an organization

1 that is not a licensed organization, but that is otherwise  
2 eligible for a regular license to conduct bingo. A limited  
3 license authorizes the conduct of bingo at up to 2 indoor or  
4 outdoor festivals during the calendar year for which the  
5 license is issued for a maximum of 5 consecutive days on each  
6 occasion.

7 "Non-profit organization" means an organization or  
8 institution organized and conducted on a not-for-profit basis  
9 with no personal profit inuring to anyone as a result of the  
10 operation.

11 "Organization" means a corporation, agency, partnership,  
12 association, firm, business or other entity consisting of 2 or  
13 more persons joined by a common interest or purpose.

14 "Person" means any natural individual, corporation,  
15 partnership, limited liability company, organization (as  
16 defined in this Section), licensee under this Act, or  
17 volunteer.

18 "Provider" means any person or organization, except a city,  
19 village, or incorporated town that owns or leases premises to  
20 an organization for the conduct of bingo.

21 "Regular license" means a license authorizing its holder to  
22 conduct one session of bingo per week on the date and at the  
23 time and location stated on the license.

24 "Religious organization" means any church, congregation,  
25 society, or organization founded for the purpose of religious  
26 worship.

1       "Remote caller bingo game" means a game of bingo in which  
2       (1) the numbers or symbols on randomly drawn plastic balls are  
3       announced by a natural person present at the site where the  
4       live game is conducted and (2) the organization conducting the  
5       game of bingo uses audio and video technology to link any of  
6       its in-state facilities for the purpose of transmitting the  
7       remote calling of a live bingo game from a single location to  
8       multiple locations owned, leased, or rented by that  
9       organization.

10       "Senior citizens organization" means an organization or  
11       association comprised of members of which substantially all are  
12       individuals who are senior citizens, as defined in the Illinois  
13       Act on the Aging, the primary purpose of which is to promote  
14       the welfare of its members.

15       "Special games" means bingo games that may be designated as  
16       such, played a maximum of 5 times during a bingo session and  
17       are distinguished from regular games only by the maximum price  
18       that may be charged for the bingo cards used.

19       "Special permit" means the ability of a licensee who  
20       currently holds a license to be granted a permit to conduct  
21       bingo at other premises or on other days not exceeding 5  
22       consecutive days.

23       "Supplier" means any person, firm, or corporation that  
24       sells, leases, or distributes to any organization licensed to  
25       conduct bingo or to any licensed bingo supplier, cards, boards,  
26       sheets, markers, pads and any other supplies, devices and

1 equipment designed for use in the play of bingo.

2 "Veterans' organization" means an organization comprised  
3 of members of which substantially all are individuals who are  
4 veterans or spouses, widows, or widowers of veterans, the  
5 primary purpose of which is to promote the welfare of its  
6 members and to provide assistance to the general public in such  
7 a way as to confer a public benefit.

8 "Volunteer" means a person recruited by an organization who  
9 voluntarily performs services at a bingo event, including  
10 participation in the management or operation of a game.

11 "Youth athletic organization" means an organization having  
12 as its exclusive purpose the promotion and provision of  
13 athletic activities for youth aged 18 and under.

14 (Source: P.A. 95-228, eff. 8-16-07.)

15 (230 ILCS 25/2) (from Ch. 120, par. 1102)

16 Sec. 2. The conducting of bingo is subject to the following  
17 restrictions:

18 (1) The entire net proceeds from bingo play must be  
19 exclusively devoted to the lawful purposes of the  
20 organization permitted to conduct that game.

21 (2) (Blank).

22 (2.5) No person except a bona fide member or employee  
23 of the sponsoring organization may participate in the  
24 management or operation of bingo.

25 (3) No person may receive any remuneration or profit

1 for participating in the management or operation of the  
2 game, except that if an organization licensed under this  
3 Act is associated with a school or other educational  
4 institution, that school or institution may reduce tuition  
5 or fees for a designated pupil based on participation in  
6 the management or operation of the game by any member of  
7 the organization. The extent to which tuition and fees are  
8 reduced shall relate proportionately to the amount of time  
9 volunteered by the member, as determined by the school or  
10 other educational institution.

11 (4) (Blank). ~~The aggregate retail value of all prizes~~  
12 ~~or merchandise awarded in any single day of bingo may not~~  
13 ~~exceed \$2,250, except that in adjoining counties having~~  
14 ~~200,000 to 275,000 inhabitants each, and in counties which~~  
15 ~~are adjacent to either of such adjoining counties and are~~  
16 ~~adjacent to a total of not more than 2 counties in this~~  
17 ~~State, and in any municipality having 2,500 or more~~  
18 ~~inhabitants and within one mile of such adjoining and~~  
19 ~~adjacent counties having less than 25,000 inhabitants, 2~~  
20 ~~additional bingo games may be conducted after the \$2,250~~  
21 ~~limit has been reached. The prize awarded for any one game,~~  
22 ~~including any game conducted after reaching the \$2,250~~  
23 ~~limit as authorized in this paragraph (4), may not exceed~~  
24 ~~\$500 cash or its equivalent.~~

25 (5) The number of games, including regular and special  
26 games, may not exceed 25 in any one day, except that this

1 restriction on the number of games shall not apply to bingo  
2 conducted at the Illinois State Fair or any county fair  
3 held in Illinois.

4 (6) ~~The price paid for a single card under the license~~  
5 ~~may not exceed \$1 and such card is valid for all regular~~  
6 ~~games on that day of bingo.~~ A maximum of 5 special games  
7 may be held on each bingo day, except that this restriction  
8 on the number of special games shall not apply to bingo  
9 conducted at the Illinois State Fair or any county fair  
10 held in Illinois. ~~The price for a single special game card~~  
11 ~~may not exceed 50 cents.~~

12 (7) The number of bingo days conducted by a licensee  
13 under this Act, including any remote caller bingo games, is  
14 limited to 2 ~~one~~ per week, except as follows:

15 (i) Bingo may be conducted in accordance with the terms  
16 of a special operator's permit or limited license  
17 issued under subdivision (7) or (8) of Section 1.3.

18 (ii) Bingo may be conducted at the Illinois State Fair  
19 or any county fair held in Illinois under subdivision  
20 (6) of Section 1.3.

21 (iii) A licensee which cancels a day of bingo because  
22 of inclement weather or because the day is a holiday or  
23 the eve of a holiday may, after giving notice to the  
24 Department, conduct bingo on an additional date which  
25 falls on a day of the week other than the day  
26 authorized under the license.

1           (8) A licensee may rent a premises on which to conduct  
2 bingo only from an organization which is licensed as a  
3 provider of premises or exempt from license requirements  
4 under this Act. If the organization providing the premises  
5 is a metropolitan exposition, auditorium, and office  
6 building authority created by State law, a licensee may  
7 enter into a rental agreement with the organization  
8 authorizing the licensee and the organization to share the  
9 gross proceeds of bingo games; however, the organization  
10 shall not receive more than 50% of the gross proceeds.

11           (9) No person under the age of 18 years may play or  
12 participate in the conducting of bingo. Any person under  
13 the age of 18 years may be within the area where bingo is  
14 being played only when accompanied by his parent or  
15 guardian.

16           (10) The promoter of bingo games must have a  
17 proprietary interest in the game promoted.

18           (11) Raffles or other forms of gambling prohibited by  
19 law shall not be conducted on the premises where bingo is  
20 being conducted, except that pull tabs and jar games  
21 conducted under the Illinois Pull Tabs and Jar Games Act  
22 may be conducted on the premises where bingo is being  
23 conducted. Prizes awarded in pull tabs and jar games shall  
24 not be included in the bingo prize limitation.

25           (12) Organizations may be issued a special permit or  
26 limited license no more than 2 times in any year. An



1 organization holding a special operator's permit or a  
2 limited license may, as one of the occasions allowed by  
3 such permit or license, conduct bingo for a maximum of 2  
4 consecutive days. If an organization conducts bingo  
5 pursuant to a limited license or special permit, then the  
6 number of games played during each day may exceed 25, and  
7 regular game cards need not be valid for all regular games.  
8 If only noncash prizes are awarded during such occasions,  
9 the prize limits stated in subdivision (4) of this Section  
10 shall not apply, provided that the retail value of noncash  
11 prizes for any single game shall not exceed \$150.

12 (Source: P.A. 95-228, eff. 8-16-07.)

13 (230 ILCS 25/2.5 new)

14 Sec. 2.5. Remote caller bingo license; restrictions.

15 (a) No person or organization may conduct a remote caller  
16 bingo game without a remote caller bingo license. The remote  
17 caller bingo game license must list all of the locations  
18 approved by the Department to conduct remote caller bingo games  
19 under that license. The Department shall issue qualifications  
20 for a remote caller bingo license and set forth an application  
21 process.

22 (b) The conducting of a remote caller bingo game is subject  
23 to the following restrictions:

24 (1) The drawing of each ball bearing a number or symbol  
25 by the natural person calling the game shall be visible to

1 all players as the ball is drawn, including through a  
2 simultaneous live video feed at remote locations at which  
3 players may participate in the game. The audio or video  
4 technology used to link the facilities may include cable,  
5 Internet, satellite, broadband, or telephone technology,  
6 or any other means of electronic transmission that ensures  
7 the secure, accurate, and simultaneous transmission of the  
8 announcement of numbers or symbols in the game from the  
9 location at which the game is called by a natural person to  
10 the remote location or locations at which players may  
11 participate in the game.

12 (2) The remote caller bingo licensee or members of its  
13 organization shall not receive a profit, wage, or salary  
14 from the remote caller bingo game.

15 (3) The remote caller bingo game shall be operated and  
16 staffed only by the remote caller bingo licensee or members  
17 of its organization with the exception of administrative,  
18 managerial, technical, financial, or security personnel  
19 who are employed by the remote caller bingo licensee at a  
20 location participating in the remote caller bingo game.  
21 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an exclusive  
22 agreement or other agreement between the remote caller  
23 bingo licensee and other entities or persons to provide  
24 services in the administration, management, or conduct of  
25 the game shall not be considered a violation of the  
26 prohibition against holding a legally cognizable financial

1 interest in the conduct of the remote caller bingo game by  
2 persons or entities other than the charitable  
3 organization.

4 (4) The remote caller bingo licensee shall not have  
5 overhead costs exceeding 25% of gross sales, except that  
6 the limitations of this item (4) shall not apply to  
7 one-time, non-recurring capital acquisitions. For purposes  
8 of this item (4), overhead costs include, but are not  
9 limited to, amounts paid for rent and equipment leasing and  
10 the reasonable fees authorized to be paid to  
11 administrative, managerial, technical, financial, and  
12 security personnel employed by the remote caller bingo  
13 licensee.

14 For the purpose of keeping its overhead costs below 25%  
15 of gross sales, a remote caller bingo licensee may elect to  
16 deduct all or a portion of the fees paid to financial  
17 institutions for the use and processing of credit card  
18 sales from the amount of gross revenues awarded for prizes.  
19 These deducted fees for the use and processing of credit  
20 card sales shall not be considered overhead costs.  
21 Additionally, fees paid to financial institutions for the  
22 use and processing of credit card sales shall not be  
23 deducted from the proceeds retained by the charitable  
24 organization.

25 (5) No person shall be allowed to participate in a  
26 remote caller bingo game unless the person is physically

1 present at the time and place where the remote caller bingo  
2 game is being conducted. A person shall be deemed to be  
3 physically present at the place where the remote caller  
4 bingo game is being conducted if he or she is present at  
5 any of the locations participating in the remote caller  
6 bingo game in accordance with this Section.

7 (6) An organization shall only co-sponsor a remote  
8 caller bingo game with one or more other organizations that  
9 share the same type of membership category. Unaffiliated  
10 organizations shall be limited to a maximum of 10 locations  
11 for a remote caller bingo game and a maximum of 2 remote  
12 caller bingo games per week.

13 (7) Every remote caller bingo game shall be played  
14 until a winner is declared. The declared winner of a remote  
15 caller bingo game shall provide his or her identifying  
16 information and a mailing address to the onsite manager of  
17 the remote caller bingo game. Prizes shall be paid only by  
18 check if the prize money exceeds \$999.99. The remote caller  
19 bingo licensee may issue a check to the winner at the time  
20 of the game or mail a check to the declared winner by  
21 certified mail, return receipt requested, within 10 days  
22 after the remote caller bingo game.

23 (8) The value of prizes awarded during the conduct of  
24 any remote caller bingo game shall not exceed 40% of the  
25 gross receipts for that game. If an authorized organization  
26 elects to deduct fees paid for the use and processing of

1 credit card sales from the amount of gross revenues for  
2 that game awarded for prizes, then the maximum amount of  
3 gross revenues that may be awarded for prizes shall not  
4 exceed 40% of the gross receipts for that game, less the  
5 amount of redirected fees paid for the use and processing  
6 of credit card sales.

7 (9) All prize money exceeding State and federal  
8 exemption limits on prize money shall be subject to income  
9 tax reporting and withholding requirements under  
10 applicable State and federal laws and regulations and those  
11 reports and withholding shall be forwarded, within 10  
12 business days after the remote caller bingo game, to the  
13 appropriate State or federal agency on behalf of the  
14 winner. A report shall accompany the amount withheld  
15 identifying the person on whose behalf the money is being  
16 sent. Any game interrupted by a transmission failure,  
17 electrical outage, or act of God shall be considered void  
18 in the location that was affected and the organization's  
19 members, affiliates, and the State shall be held harmless.  
20 A refund for a canceled game or games shall be provided to  
21 the purchasers.

22 (10) The entire net proceeds, comprised of at least 35%  
23 of the gross proceeds, from the remote caller bingo game  
24 must be exclusively devoted to the lawful purposes of the  
25 organization permitted to conduct that game.