

ASSEMBLY, No. 3556

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 2, 2004

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Directs Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission to authorize use of certain electronic devices in conducting bingo; increases bingo prize amounts and authorizes commission to change prize amounts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A3556 VAN DREW

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1 AN ACT directing the use of certain electronic devices in conducting
2 bingo and increasing certain prize amounts and amending P.L.1954,
3 c.6.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1954, c.6 (C.5:8-25) is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 2. It shall be lawful for the governing body of any municipality, at
11 any time after this act shall become operative within such municipality
12 and except when prohibited by this act, to license bona fide
13 organizations or associations of veterans of any war in which the
14 United States has been engaged, churches or religious congregations
15 and religious organizations, charitable, educational and fraternal
16 organizations, civic and service clubs, senior citizen associations and
17 clubs, officially recognized volunteer fire companies, and officially
18 recognized volunteer first aid or rescue squads, to hold and operate
19 games of chance of, and restricted to, the specific kind of game of
20 chance commonly known as bingo or lotto played for prizes with
21 cards bearing numbers or other designations, five or more in one line,
22 the holder covering numbers, as objects, similarly numbered, are
23 drawn from a receptacle and the game being won by the person who
24 first covers a previously designated arrangement of numbers on such
25 a card, by selling shares or tickets or rights to participate in such
26 games and by conducting the games accordingly, when the entire net
27 proceeds of such games of chance are to be devoted to educational,
28 charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited uses, and, in the case
29 of senior citizen associations or clubs, to the support of such
30 organizations, and for any such organization, association, church,
31 congregation, society, club, fire company, first aid or rescue squad, or
32 senior citizen association or club, when so licensed, to hold, operate
33 and conduct such games of chance by its active members pursuant to
34 this act and such license, and under such conditions and regulations
35 for the supervision and conduct thereof as shall be prescribed by rules
36 and regulations duly adopted from time to time by the Legalized
37 Games of Chance Control Commission, hereinafter designated as the
38 control commission, not inconsistent with the provisions of this act,
39 but only when the entire net proceeds thereof are devoted to the uses
40 aforesaid and for any person or persons to participate in and play such
41 games of chance conducted under any such license.

42 The control commission shall, pursuant to regulations promulgated
43 by it, authorize the use in conducting bingo or lotto of electronic

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 devices that are the functional equivalent of the cards, numbered
2 objects, and receptacle described herein to the extent that the use of
3 such devices is not inconsistent with any other provision of this act or
4 the provisions of subparagraph A of New Jersey Constitution, Article
5 IV, Section 7, paragraph 2. Any such electronic device shall comply
6 with specifications prescribed by the commission and shall be approved
7 by the commission prior to use. Nothing contained in this section shall
8 be construed as allowing electronic devices used by a qualified
9 organization in conducting bingo or lotto to be linked to electronic
10 devices used by any other qualified organization in conducting bingo
11 or lotto.

12 (cf: P.L.1973, c. 127, s.1)

13

14 2. Section 4 of P.L.1954, c.6 (C.5:8-27) is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 4. The governing body of the municipality shall make an
17 investigation of the qualifications of each applicant and the merits of
18 each application, with due expedition after the filing of the application,
19 and if it shall determine that the applicant is duly qualified to be
20 licensed under this act to hold, operate and conduct games of chance
21 under the provisions of this act and the rules and regulations governing
22 the holding, operation and conduct thereof in the municipality; that the
23 member or members of the applicant designated in the application to
24 hold, operate or conduct the games of chance which the license is
25 applied for are bona fide active members of the applicant and are
26 persons of good moral character and have never been convicted of
27 crime; that such games of chance are to be held, operated and
28 conducted in accordance with the provisions of this act and in
29 accordance with the rules and regulations governing the holding,
30 operation and conduct thereof and that the proceeds thereof are to be
31 disposed of as provided by this act, and if the governing body is
32 satisfied that no commission, salary, compensation, reward or
33 recompense whatever will be paid or given to any person holding,
34 operating or conducting or assisting in the holding, operation or
35 conduct of any such game of chance except as in this act otherwise
36 provided; and that no prize will be offered and given in excess of the
37 sum or value of ~~[\$250.00]~~ \$1,000, or an amount established by
38 regulation of the control commission not earlier than one year after the
39 effective date of P.L. , c. (now pending before the Legislature as
40 this bill), in any single game of chance, and that the aggregate of all
41 prizes offered and given in all such games of chance, held, operated
42 and conducted on a single occasion, under said license shall not exceed
43 the sum or value of ~~[\$1,000.00]~~ \$3,000, or an amount established by
44 regulation of the control commission not earlier than one year after the
45 effective date of P.L. , c. (now pending before the Legislature as
46 this bill), it shall issue a license to the applicant for the holding,

1 operation and conduct of the specific kind of games of chance applied
2 for, accordingly, upon payment of a license fee or fees prescribed by
3 regulation promulgated by the control commission for each occasion
4 upon which any game or games are to be conducted under such
5 license.

6 The ~~[\$250.00]~~ \$1,000 limitation on single game prizes and the
7 ~~[\$1,000.00]~~ \$3,000 aggregate prize limitation established in this
8 section shall not apply to games in which the prize is determined based
9 upon a percentage of the gross receipts from the sale of cards to
10 participate in the game. The control commission shall, by regulation,
11 prescribe the method of play and set the minimum and maximum
12 percentage to be awarded in any such game.

13 No license for the holding, operation and conduct of any game or
14 games of chance shall be issued under this act which shall be effective
15 for a period of more than one year.

16 (cf: P.L.1994, c.63, s.4)

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18 3. Section 12 of P.L.1954, c.6 (C.5:8-35) is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 12. No amount in excess of the amount prescribed by regulation
21 promulgated by the control commission shall be charged by any
22 licensee for admission to any room or place in which any game or
23 games of chance are to be held, operated and conducted under any
24 license issued under this act, which admission fee, upon payment
25 thereof, shall entitle the person paying the same to a card entitling him
26 to participate without additional charge in all regular games of chance
27 to be played under such license on such occasion, and no charge in
28 excess of the amount prescribed by regulation promulgated by the
29 control commission shall be made for a single opportunity to
30 participate in all special games to be played under such license on such
31 occasion. No prize greater in amount or value than ~~[\$250.00]~~
32 \$1,000, or an amount established by regulation of the control
33 commission not earlier than one year after the effective date of
34 P.L. , c. (now pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall be
35 offered or given in any single game conducted under any such license
36 and the aggregate amount or value of all prizes offered and given in all
37 games played on a single occasion shall not exceed ~~[\$1,000.00, except~~
38 as otherwise provided for by P.L.1954, c.6 (C.5:8-24 et seq.)] \$3,000
39 or an amount established by regulation of the control commission not
40 earlier than one year after the effective date of P.L. , c. (now
41 pending before the Legislature as this bill), and all winners shall be
42 determined and all prizes shall be awarded in any game played on any
43 occasion within the same calendar day as that upon which the winner
44 is determined.

45 (cf: P.L.1994, c.63, s.9)

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill would direct the Legalized Games of Chance Control
7 Commission to promulgate regulations allowing the use in conducting
8 bingo of electronic devices that are the functional equivalent of the
9 cards, numbered objects, and receptacle currently described in the law
10 to the extent that the use of such devices is not inconsistent with any
11 other provision of the Bingo Licensing Law or the provisions of the
12 State Constitution concerning bingo. Any such electronic device must
13 comply with specifications prescribed by the commission and be
14 approved by the commission prior to use. The bill would not allow
15 electronic devices used by a qualified organization in conducting bingo
16 or lotto to be linked to electronic devices used by any other qualified
17 organization in conducting bingo.

18 The bill increases the maximum prize in any single game from \$250
19 to \$1,000 and the aggregate of all prizes that may be offered on a
20 single occasion from \$1,000 to \$3,000. It also authorizes the
21 commission, beginning one year after the bill's effective date, to
22 change those amounts by regulation.