

ASSEMBLY TOURISM AND GAMING COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3556

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 2, 2005

The Assembly Tourism and Gaming Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly, No. 3556.

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

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

The committee amended the bill to clarify that, under the bill, a permissible electronic device used in conducting bingo would not allow currency, coins, or tokens to be inserted or allow currency, coins, tokens, or a receipt for monetary value to be dispensed. Additionally, once provided to a bingo player, a permissible device would not be capable of communicating with any other such device.

It is the intent of this bill that an electronic device used in conducting bingo would be a convenience to a bingo player, allowing a called number to be posted to all bingo cards bearing that number, and alerting a player when he or she has won bingo.