

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 159**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

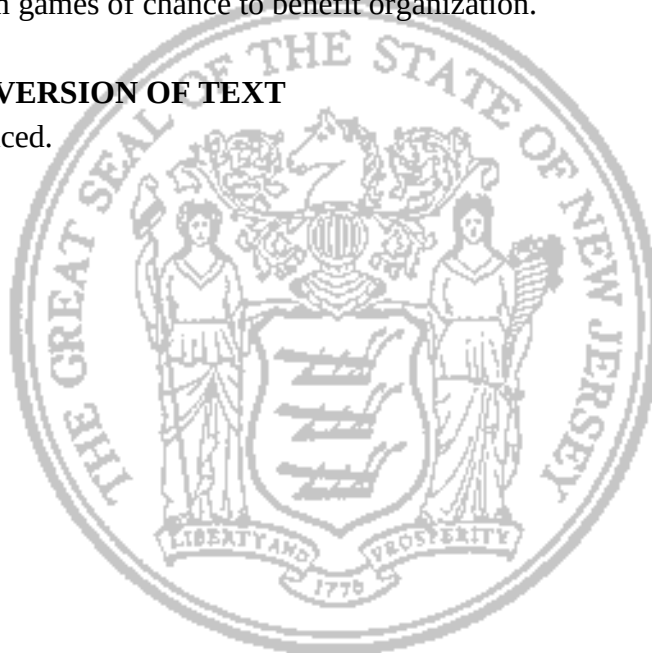
**Assemblyman Houghtaling, Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman Tully,
Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblymen Wirths and Space**

SYNOPSIS

Proposes constitutional amendment to allow certain organizations to use proceeds from games of chance to benefit organization.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** to amend Article IV, Section VII,
2 paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey.

3
4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
5 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

6
7 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of
8 the State of New Jersey is hereby agreed to:

9
10 **PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

11
12 Amend Article IV, Section VII, paragraph 2 to read as follows:

13
14 2. No gambling of any kind shall be authorized by the
15 Legislature unless the specific kind, restrictions and control thereof
16 have been heretofore submitted to, and authorized by a majority of
17 the votes cast by, the people at a special election or shall hereafter
18 be submitted to, and authorized by a majority of the votes cast
19 thereon by, the legally qualified voters of the State voting at a
20 general election, except that, without any such submission or
21 authorization:

22 A. It shall be lawful for bona fide veterans, charitable,
23 educational, religious or fraternal organizations, civic and service
24 clubs, senior citizen associations or clubs, volunteer fire companies
25 and first-aid or rescue squads to conduct, under such restrictions
26 and control as shall from time to time be prescribed by the
27 Legislature by law, games of chance of, and restricted to, the selling
28 of rights to participate, the awarding of prizes, in the specific kind
29 of game of chance sometimes known as bingo or lotto, played with
30 cards bearing numbers or other designations, 5 or more in one line,
31 the holder covering numbers as objects, similarly numbered, are
32 drawn from a receptacle and the game being won by the person who
33 first covers a previously designated arrangement of numbers on
34 such a card, when the entire net proceeds of such games of chance
35 are to be devoted to educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or
36 public-spirited uses, **[and in the case of bona fide veterans'**
37 **organizations and senior citizen associations]** or **[clubs]** to the
38 support of such organizations, in any municipality, in which a
39 majority of the qualified voters, voting thereon, at a general or
40 special election as the submission thereof shall be prescribed by the
41 Legislature by law, shall authorize the conduct of such games of
42 chance therein;

43 B. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law,
44 bona fide veterans, charitable, educational, religious or fraternal
45 organizations, civic and service clubs, senior citizen associations or

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 clubs, volunteer fire companies and first-aid or rescue squads to
2 conduct games of chance of, and restricted to, the selling of rights
3 to participate, and the awarding of prizes, in the specific kinds of
4 games of chance sometimes known as raffles, conducted by the
5 drawing for prizes or by the allotment of prizes by chance, when the
6 entire net proceeds of such games of chance are to be devoted to
7 educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited uses,
8 **【and in the case of bona fide veterans' organizations and senior**
9 **citizen associations】** or **【clubs】** to the support of such
10 organizations, in any municipality, in which such law shall be
11 adopted by a majority of the qualified voters, voting thereon, at a
12 general or special election as the submission thereof shall be
13 prescribed by law and for the Legislature, from time to time, to
14 restrict and control, by law, the conduct of such games of chance;

15 C. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize the conduct
16 of State lotteries restricted to the selling of rights to participate
17 therein and the awarding of prizes by drawings when the entire net
18 proceeds of any such lottery shall be for State institutions and State
19 aid for education; provided, however, that it shall not be competent
20 for the Legislature to borrow, appropriate or use, under any pretense
21 whatsoever, lottery net proceeds for the confinement, housing,
22 supervision or treatment of, or education programs for, adult
23 criminal offenders or juveniles adjudged delinquent or for the
24 construction, staffing, support, maintenance or operation of an adult
25 or juvenile correctional facility or institution;

26 D. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by law the
27 establishment and operation, under regulation and control by the
28 State, of gambling houses or casinos within the boundaries, as
29 heretofore established, of the city of Atlantic City, county of
30 Atlantic, and to license and tax such operations and equipment used
31 in connection therewith. Any law authorizing the establishment and
32 operation of such gambling establishments shall provide for the
33 State revenues derived therefrom to be applied solely for the
34 purpose of providing funding for reductions in property taxes,
35 rental, telephone, gas, electric, and municipal utilities charges of
36 eligible senior citizens and disabled residents of the State, and for
37 additional or expanded health services or benefits or transportation
38 services or benefits to eligible senior citizens and disabled
39 residents, in accordance with such formulae as the Legislature shall
40 by law provide. The type and number of such casinos or gambling
41 houses and of the gambling games which may be conducted in any
42 such establishment shall be determined by or pursuant to the terms
43 of the law authorizing the establishment and operation thereof.

44 It shall also be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by law
45 wagering at casinos or gambling houses in Atlantic City on the
46 results of any professional, college, or amateur sport or athletic
47 event, except that wagering shall not be permitted on a college sport
48 or athletic event that takes place in New Jersey or on a sport or

1 athletic event in which any New Jersey college team participates
2 regardless of where the event takes place;

3 E. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law, (1)
4 the simultaneous transmission by picture of running and harness
5 horse races conducted at racetracks located within or outside of this
6 State, or both, to gambling houses or casinos in the city of Atlantic
7 City and (2) the specific kind, restrictions and control of wagering
8 at those gambling establishments on the results of those races. The
9 State's share of revenues derived therefrom shall be applied for
10 services to benefit eligible senior citizens as shall be provided by
11 law; and

12 F. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law, the
13 specific kind, restrictions and control of wagering on the results of
14 live or simulcast running and harness horse races conducted within
15 or outside of this State. The State's share of revenues derived
16 therefrom shall be used for such purposes as shall be provided by
17 law.

18 It shall also be lawful for the Legislature to authorize by law
19 wagering at current or former running and harness horse racetracks
20 in this State on the results of any professional, college, or amateur
21 sport or athletic event, except that wagering shall not be permitted
22 on a college sport or athletic event that takes place in New Jersey or
23 on a sport or athletic event in which any New Jersey college team
24 participates regardless of where the event takes place.

25 (cf: Art. IV, Sec. VII, par. 2, amended effective December 5, 2013)

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27 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
28 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it
29 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
30 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and
31 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each
32 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
33 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three
34 months prior to the general election.

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36 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be
37 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and
38 form:

39 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the
40 general election, the following:

41 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,
42 a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

43 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus
44 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are
45 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the
46 square opposite the word "No."

47 b. In every municipality the following question:

	YES	<p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT GAMES OF CHANCE TO USE PROCEEDS FROM THOSE GAMES TO SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to permit all groups that are allowed to conduct bingo or raffles to use the net proceeds from those games to support their groups?</p> <p>Currently, only veterans and senior citizen groups may use the net proceeds from those games to support their groups. All other groups that are permitted to conduct bingo or raffles may only use the proceeds from those games for certain purposes. They are not permitted to use those proceeds to support their groups. The amendment would allow the other groups that conduct bingo or raffles to use the proceeds to support their groups as well.</p>
	NO	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>The Constitution permits certain groups to conduct games of chance such as bingo or raffles. Those groups are veterans, charitable, educational, religious, fraternal, civic, and senior citizen groups; volunteer fire companies; and first-aid or rescue squads.</p> <p>The net proceeds from those games of chance may only be used for educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited uses. However, veterans and senior citizen groups may also use the proceeds from those games to support their groups.</p> <p>This amendment would permit all of the groups authorized to conduct games of chance to use the net proceeds from conducting bingo or raffles to support their groups.</p>

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SCHEDULE

This Constitutional amendment shall, if approved, take effect on January 1 next following the general election at which it was approved.

1 STATEMENT

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3 This constitutional amendment would permit certain
4 organizations to use the net proceeds from conducting games of
5 chance, such as bingo and raffles, to support their organizations.

6 The New Jersey Constitution permits certain organizations to
7 conduct games of chance such as bingo or raffles. Those groups
8 include veterans, charitable, educational, religious, fraternal, civic,
9 and senior citizen organizations, volunteer fire companies, and first-
10 aid or rescue squads. The net proceeds from those games may only
11 be used for educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or public-
12 spirited uses. Currently, veterans and senior citizen groups may also
13 use the proceeds to support their organizations. This constitutional
14 amendment would change the law to allow the other groups that are
15 permitted to conduct these games of chance to use the net proceeds
16 to support their organizations as well.

17 The amendment will take effect on January 1 after approval at
18 the general election in November.