

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 91**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

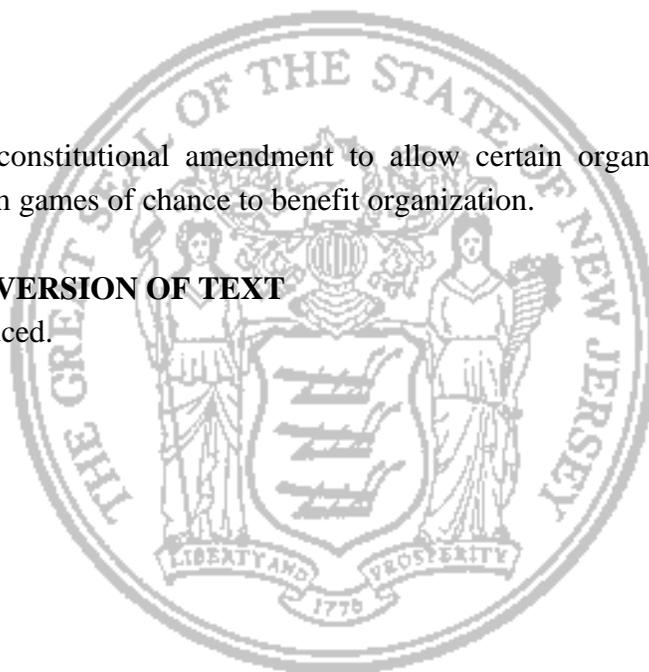
**Senators Brown, Thompson, Oroho, Assemblyman Houghtaling,
Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywoman Downey,
Assemblymen Wirths and Space**

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)

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

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

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

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10 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

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

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

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

42 B. It shall be lawful for the Legislature to authorize, by law,
43 bona fide veterans, charitable, educational, religious or fraternal
44 organizations, civic and service clubs, senior citizen associations or
45 clubs, volunteer fire companies and first-aid or rescue squads to

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.

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

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

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

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

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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, a
42 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:

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	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.