

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40516-ML-132

Short Title: Revise Law on Instant Bingo. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Hawkins.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO REVISE THE LAWS GOVERNING INSTANT BINGO GAMES, TO REVISE
THE METHOD BY WHICH FUNDS RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH A BINGO
GAME MAY BE DISBURSED, AND TO MAKE VARIOUS TECHNICAL
CORRECTIONS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 14-309.6 reads as rewritten:

"§ 14-309.6. Definitions.

For purposes of this Part, the ~~term~~following definitions apply:

(1) ~~"Exempt organization" means an~~Exempt organization. – An organization that has been in continuous existence in the county of operation of the bingo game for at least one year and that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), 501(c)(19), or 501(d) of the Internal Revenue Code and is exempt under similar provisions of the General Statutes as a bona fide nonprofit charitable, civic, religious, fraternal, patriotic or veterans' organization or as a nonprofit volunteer fire department, or as a nonprofit volunteer rescue squad or a bona fide homeowners' or property owners' association. (If the organization has local branches or chapters, the term "exempt organization" means the local branch or chapter operating the bingo ~~game~~);game).

(2) ~~"Bingo game" means a~~Bingo game. – A specific game of chance played with individual cards having numbered squares ranging from one to 75, in which prizes are awarded on the basis of designated numbers on such cards conforming to a predetermined pattern of ~~numbers (but shall not include "instant bingo" which is a game of chance played by the selection of one or more prepackaged cards, with winners determined by the appearance of a preselected designation on the card);~~numbers. This term includes instant bingo.

(2a) Instant bingo. – A game of chance played by the selection of one or more predesignated paper or digital tickets, with winners determined by the appearance of a preselected designation on the ticket.

...

(4) ~~"Local law enforcement agency" means for~~Local law enforcement agency. – For any bingo game conducted outside the corporate limits of a municipality or inside the corporate limits of a municipality having no municipal police ~~force~~force, this term means either of the following:



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- 1 a. The county police ~~force; or force.~~
2 b. The county sheriff's office in a county with no county police
3 ~~force; force.~~
4 (5) ~~"Local law enforcement agency" means the~~Local law enforcement agency. –
5 ~~The~~ municipal police for any bingo game conducted within the corporate
6 limits of a municipality having a police ~~force; force.~~
7 (6) ~~"Beach bingo games" means bingo~~Beach bingo games. – Bingo games which
8 have prizes of ten dollars (\$10.00) or less or merchandise that is not
9 redeemable for cash and that has a value of ten dollars (\$10.00) or less;
10 ~~and less. This term does not include instant bingo.~~
11 (7) ~~"Licensed exempt organization" means an~~Licensed exempt organization. – An
12 exempt organization which possesses a currently valid license.
13 (8) ~~"Nonprofit organization" means an~~Nonprofit organization. – An organization
14 or association recognized by the Department of Revenue as tax exempt
15 pursuant to G.S. 105-130.11(a), or any bona fide branch, chapter, or affiliate
16 of that organization."

17 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 14-309.8 reads as rewritten:

18 **"§ 14-309.8. Limit on sessions.**

19 The number of sessions of bingo conducted or sponsored by an exempt organization shall be
20 limited to two sessions per week and such sessions must not exceed a period of five hours each
21 per session. No two sessions of bingo shall be held within a 48-hour period of time. No more
22 than two sessions of bingo shall be operated or conducted in any one building, hall or structure
23 during any one calendar week and if two sessions are held, they must be held by the same exempt
24 organization. This section shall not apply to bingo games conducted (i) at a fair or other
25 exhibition conducted pursuant to Article 45 of Chapter 106 of the General ~~Statutes.~~Statutes or
26 (ii) by an organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), or 501(c)(19)
27 of the Internal Revenue Code."

28 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 14-309.9(a) reads as rewritten:

29 "(a) ~~The~~Except as otherwise provided in this section, the maximum prize in cash or
30 merchandise that may be offered or paid for any one game of bingo is five hundred dollars
31 (\$500.00). The maximum aggregate amount of prizes, in ~~cash and/or cash,~~ merchandise, or cash
32 and merchandise, that may be offered or paid at any one session of bingo is one thousand five
33 hundred dollars (\$1,500). Provided, however, that if an exempt organization holds only one
34 session of bingo during a calendar week, the maximum aggregate amount of prizes, in ~~cash~~
35 ~~and/or cash,~~ merchandise, or cash and merchandise, that may be offered or paid at any one session
36 is two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500). The maximum prize in cash or merchandise that
37 may be offered or paid for any one game of instant bingo is six hundred dollars (\$600.00)."

38 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 14-309.10 reads as rewritten:

39 **"§ 14-309.10. Operation of bingo.**

40 (a) The operation of bingo games shall be the direct responsibility of, and controlled by,
41 a special committee selected by the governing body of the exempt organization in the manner
42 provided by the rules of the exempt organization.

43 (b) Only organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), or
44 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code may conduct instant bingo.

45 (c) Paper instant bingo tickets shall comply with the standards for instant bingo tickets
46 or cards established by the North American Gaming Regulators Association, as amended from
47 time to time.

48 (d) Prior to use, electronic instant bingo systems shall be tested by an independent gaming
49 test laboratory and certified as compliant with the GLI-14 standard produced by Gaming
50 Laboratories International, LLC."

51 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 14-309.11 reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 14-309.11. Accounting and use of proceeds.**

2 (a) All funds received in connection with a bingo game shall be placed in a separate bank
3 account. No funds may be disbursed from this account except the exempt organization may
4 expend proceeds for prizes, advertising, utilities, and the purchase of supplies and equipment
5 used in conducting the raffle and in playing bingo, taxes and license fees related to ~~bingo~~
6 ~~and bingo~~, the payment of compensation as authorized by G.S. ~~14-309.7(e)~~ 14-309.7(c), and for
7 the purposes set forth below for the remaining proceeds. Such payments shall be made by
8 consecutively numbered ~~checks~~, checks or by electronic funds transfer. Any proceeds available
9 in the account after payment of the above expenses shall inure to the exempt organization to be
10 used for religious, charitable, civic, scientific, testing, public safety, literary, or educational
11 purposes or for purchasing, constructing, maintaining, operating or using equipment or land or a
12 building or improvements thereto owned by and for the exempt organization and used for civic
13 purposes or made available by the exempt organization for use by the general public from time
14 to time, or to foster amateur sports competition, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or
15 animals, provided that no proceeds shall be used or expended for social functions for the members
16 of the exempt organization.

17 (b) An audit of the account required by subsection (a) of this section shall be prepared
18 annually for the period of January 1 through December 31 or otherwise as directed by the Alcohol
19 Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Public Safety and shall be filed with the
20 Division and the local law-enforcement agency at a time directed by the Division. The audit shall
21 be prepared on a form approved by the Division and shall include all of the following
22 information:

- 23 (1) The number of bingo games conducted or sponsored by the exempt
24 ~~organization~~; organization.
- 25 (2) The location and date at which each bingo game was conducted and the prize
26 ~~awarded~~; awarded.
- 27 (3) The gross receipts of each bingo ~~game~~; game.
- 28 (4) The cost or amount of any prize given at each bingo ~~game~~; game.
- 29 (5) The amount paid in prizes at each ~~session~~; session.
- 30 (6) The net return to the exempt ~~organization~~; and organization.
- 31 (7) The disbursements from the separate account and the purpose of those
32 disbursements, including the date of each transaction and the name and
33 address of each payee.

34"

35 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025, and applies to bingo
36 games conducted on or after that date.