

AN ACT concerning gaming.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Bingo License and Tax Act is amended by changing Sections 1.1 and 1.3 as follows:

(230 ILCS 25/1.1)

Sec. 1.1. Definitions. For purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

"Bingo" means a game in which each player has a card or board for which a consideration has been paid, containing 5 horizontal rows of spaces, with each row except the central one containing 5 figures. The central row has 4 figures with the word "free" marked in the center space. "Bingo" includes games that otherwise qualify under this paragraph, except for the use of cards where the figures are not preprinted but are filled in by the players. A player wins a game of bingo by completing a preannounced combination of spaces or, in the absence of a preannouncement of a combination of spaces, any combination of 5 spaces in a row, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.

"Bingo equipment" means any equipment or machinery designed or used for the play of bingo. "Bingo equipment" does not include electronic equipment.

"Charitable organization" means an organization or

institution organized and operated to benefit an indefinite number of the public.

"Department" means the Department of Revenue.

"Educational organization" means an organization or institution organized and operated to provide systematic instruction in useful branches of learning by methods common to schools and institutions of learning which compare favorably in their scope and intensity with the course of study presented in tax-supported schools.

"Fraternal organization" means an organization of persons having a common interest that is organized and operated exclusively to promote the welfare of its members and to benefit the general public on a continuing and consistent basis, including but not limited to ethnic organizations.

"Holiday" means any of the holidays listed in Section 17 of the Promissory Note and Bank Holiday Act.

"Labor organization" means an organization composed of labor unions or workers organized with the objectives of betterment of the conditions of those engaged in such pursuit and the development of a higher degree of efficiency in their respective occupations.

"Licensed organization" means a qualified organization that has obtained a license to conduct bingo in conformance with the provisions of this Act.

"Limited license" means a license issued to an organization that is not a licensed organization, but that is otherwise

eligible for a regular license to conduct bingo. A limited license authorizes the conduct of bingo at up to 2 indoor or outdoor festivals during the calendar year for which the license is issued for a maximum of 5 consecutive days on each occasion.

"Non-profit organization" means an organization or institution organized and conducted on a not-for-profit basis with no personal profit inuring to anyone as a result of the operation.

"Organization" means a corporation, agency, partnership, association, firm, business or other entity consisting of 2 or more persons joined by a common interest or purpose.

"Person" means any natural individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, organization (as defined in this Section), licensee under this Act, or volunteer.

"Provider" means any person or organization, except a city, village, or incorporated town that owns or leases premises to an organization for the conduct of bingo.

"Regular license" means a license authorizing its holder to conduct one session of bingo per week on the date and at the time and location stated on the license.

"Religious organization" means any church, congregation, society, or organization founded for the purpose of religious worship.

"Senior citizens organization" means an organization or

association comprised of members of which substantially all are individuals who are senior citizens, as defined in the Illinois Act on the Aging, the primary purpose of which is to promote the welfare of its members.

"Special games" means bingo games that may be designated as such, played a maximum of 5 times during a bingo session and are distinguished from regular games only by the maximum price that may be charged for the bingo cards used.

"Special permit" means the ability of a licensee who currently holds a license to be granted a permit to conduct bingo ~~at other premises or~~ on other days not exceeding 5 consecutive days.

"Supplier" means any person, firm, or corporation that sells, leases, or distributes to any organization licensed to conduct bingo or to any licensed bingo supplier, cards, boards, sheets, markers, pads and any other supplies, devices and equipment designed for use in the play of bingo.

"Veterans' organization" means an organization comprised of members of which substantially all are individuals who are veterans or spouses, widows, or widowers of veterans, the primary purpose of which is to promote the welfare of its members and to provide assistance to the general public in such a way as to confer a public benefit.

"Volunteer" means a person recruited by an organization who voluntarily performs services at a bingo event, including participation in the management or operation of a game.

"Youth athletic organization" means an organization having as its exclusive purpose the promotion and provision of athletic activities for youth aged 18 and under.

(Source: P.A. 95-228, eff. 8-16-07.)

(230 ILCS 25/1.3)

Sec. 1.3. Restrictions on licensure. Licensing for the conducting of bingo is subject to the following restrictions:

(1) The license application, when submitted to the Department, must contain a sworn statement attesting to the not-for-profit character of the prospective licensee organization, signed by a person listed on the application as an owner, officer, or other person in charge of the necessary day-to-day operations of that organization.

(2) The license application shall be prepared in accordance with the rules of the Department.

(3) The licensee shall prominently display the license in the area where the licensee conducts bingo. The licensee shall likewise display, in the form and manner as prescribed by the Department, the provisions of Section 8 of this Act.

(4) Each license shall state the day of the week, hours and at which location the licensee is permitted to conduct bingo games.

(5) A license is not assignable or transferable.

(6) A license authorizes the licensee to conduct the

game commonly known as bingo, in which prizes are awarded on the basis of designated numbers or symbols on a card conforming to numbers or symbols selected at random.

(7) The Department may, on special application made by any organization having a bingo license, issue a special permit for conducting bingo ~~at other premises and~~ on other days not exceeding 5 consecutive days, except that a licensee may conduct bingo at the Illinois State Fair or any county fair held in Illinois during each day that the fair is held, without a fee. Bingo games conducted at the Illinois State Fair or a county fair shall not require a special permit. No more than 2 special permits may be issued in one year to any one organization.

(8) Any organization qualified for a license but not holding one may, upon application and payment of a nonrefundable fee of \$50, receive a limited license to conduct bingo games at no more than 2 indoor or outdoor festivals in a year for a maximum of 5 consecutive days on each occasion. No more than 2 limited licenses under this item (7) may be issued to any organization in any year. A limited license must be prominently displayed at the site where the bingo games are conducted.

(9) Senior citizens organizations and units of local government may conduct bingo without a license or fee, subject to the following conditions:

(A) bingo shall be conducted only (i) at a facility

that is owned by a unit of local government to which the corporate authorities have given their approval and that is used to provide social services or a meeting place to senior citizens, (ii) in common areas in multi-unit federally assisted rental housing maintained solely for the elderly and handicapped, or (iii) at a building owned by a church or veterans organization;

(B) the price paid for a single card shall not exceed 50 cents;

(C) the aggregate retail value of all prizes or merchandise awarded in any one game of bingo shall not exceed \$10;

(D) no person or organization shall participate in the management or operation of bingo under this item (9) if the person or organization would be ineligible for a license under this Section; and

(E) no license is required to provide premises for bingo conducted under this item (9).

(10) Bingo equipment shall not be used for any purpose other than for the play of bingo.

(Source: P.A. 96-210, eff. 8-10-09; 96-1055, eff. 7-14-10; 96-1150, eff. 7-21-10; 97-333, eff. 8-12-11.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.