19-277-98

1

3 4

5

6 7

8

10 11

12

13

14

15

16 17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

25

2627

2.8

2930

31

A bill to be entitled An act relating to bingo; amending s. 849.0931, F.S.; revising provisions which regulate the conduct of bingo; providing findings and intent; providing definitions; providing for administration and enforcement by the Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering and county sheriffs and municipal police; providing powers and duties of the division; requiring an annual report; providing requirements for the conduct of bingo by charitable organizations, associational organizations, and authorized organizations; requiring such organizations to obtain a license or certificate; providing an exception; requiring lessors of premises for the conduct of bingo to be licensed; providing requirements relating to such lessors; providing application requirements for licenses and certificates; providing for fees; providing for processing of applications by the division; specifying license and certificate time periods; providing conditions under which licenses or certificates may be suspended or revoked; providing restrictions on use of the proceeds; providing requirements for deposit of proceeds; requiring reports; providing minimum standards for the conduct of bingo; providing for administrative fines and criminal penalties; specifying that the act does not prevent any county from adopting the same or stricter regulations; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 2 3 Section 1. Section 849.0931, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 4 5 (Substantial rewording of section. See 6 s. 849.0931, F.S., for present text.) 7 849.0931 Conduct of bingo.--8 (1) SHORT TITLE. -- This section may be cited as the 9 "Bingo Law." 10 (2) FINDINGS AND INTENT.--11 (a) The Legislature declares that the playing of bingo, although gambling, for the purpose of raising funds by 12 certain nonprofit associations, veterans' organizations, or 13 14 other charitable organizations, is in the public interest. It is the policy of the Legislature that all 15 phases of the licensing, operation, and regulation of the game 16 of bingo be strictly controlled, and that all laws and 17 regulations with respect thereto, as well as all gambling 18 19 laws, should be strictly construed and rigidly enforced. 20 (c) The Legislature recognizes the possibility of 21 association between commercial gambling and organized crime, and wishes to discourage commercialization of the game of 22 bingo, prevent participation by organized crime, and prevent 23 24 the diversion of funds from the purposes authorized by this 25 section. DEFINITIONS. -- As used in this section, unless the 26 (3) 27 context clearly indicates otherwise: 28 "Actual business expenses" means those expenses 29 that have a direct bearing on and are necessary to the conduct 30 of a bingo game and related activities, the allocation of 31 which shall be in accordance with generally accepted

513.

28 29

30

31

accounting practices. For an organization conducting bingo on premises owned by the organization, the term includes 2 3 equipment and supplies; accounting services for records and reports; state and local license fees; advertising; cost of 4 5 security personnel; pro rata costs for insurance and 6 utilities, such as electricity, water, gas, sewer, and garbage 7 and trash collection, resulting from conducting a bingo game; 8 cost of refreshments provided at no cost to players and volunteers; cost of prizes; and cost of creating and 9 10 maintaining a petty cash fund no larger than \$50. For an 11 organization conducting bingo on premises not owned by the organization, the term includes equipment and supplies; state 12 and local license fees; accounting services for records and 13 reports; advertising; cost of security personnel; pro rata 14 costs for insurance and utilities, such as water, sewer, gas, 15 garbage and trash collection, and electricity, resulting from 16 17 conducting a bingo game; cost of prizes; cost of refreshments provided at no cost to players and volunteers; cost of 18 19 creating and maintaining a petty cash fund no larger than \$50; and rental charges, so long as the rental charges do not 20 21 exceed the fair market rental charged for similar premises in 22 the county where incurred. (b) "Associational organization" means a condominium 23 association, a cooperative association, a mobile homeowners' 24 association or a group of residents of a mobile home park as 25 defined by chapter 723, or a group of residents of a mobile 26 27 home park or recreational vehicle park as defined by chapter

(c) "Authorized organization" means an organization, other than a charitable organization, that is exempt from

4 5

federal income tax under s. 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

- (d) "Bingo" or "bingo game" means a game in which each participant pays a sum of money for the use of one or more bingo cards. When the game commences, numbers are drawn by chance, shown, and announced. The players cover or mark each number on the bingo cards which each player has purchased until a player receives a given order of numbers in sequence that has been announced for that game. The player calls bingo" and is declared the winner of a predetermined prize.

 More than one game may be played upon a bingo card, and the numbers called for one game may be used for a succeeding game or games.
- (e) "Bingo card" means the flat, usually rectangular, piece of paper or thin pasteboard marked off into a set of 25 squares arranged in five vertical rows of five squares each, having no fewer than 24 numbers, letters, or combinations of numbers and letters, and includes a piece of paper or cardboard marked in braille. More than one set of bingo numbers maybe printed on a single sheet of paper.
- (f) "Bingo equipment" includes bingo cards, chips, or markers, for use in covering the spaces on a bingo card; the balls, cubes, or tiles having the letters, numbers, or combinations thereof by which the squares on bingo cards are denominated and used by the organization in conducting a bingo game; a birdcage or similar device, whether hand operated or mechanically powered, for randomizing and ejecting such balls, cubes, or tiles; a master bingo layout for the display of balls, cubes, or tiles ejected and called by the organization's representative; or any other device, implement, apparatus, or paraphernalia ordinarily or commonly used or

4 5

designed to be used in the conduct of bingo; but does not include tables, chairs, and similar items not specifically designed for use in the conduct of bingo.

- veterans' organization that has qualified for exemption from federal income tax as an exempt organization under s. 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or s. 528 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and that is established for any benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, scientific, artistic, patriotic, social welfare or advocacy, public health, environmental conservation, civic, or other eleemosynary purpose, and that has been in existence and active for a period of 3 years or more. It includes a chapter, branch, area office, or similar entity performing functions of the organization within the state for a charitable organization which has its principal place of business outside the state.
- (h) "Charitable purpose" means any benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, scientific, artistic, patriotic, social welfare or advocacy, public health, environmental conservation, civic, or other eleemosynary purpose.
- (i) "Conviction" or "convicted" includes an adjudication of guilt or plea of guilty or nolo contendere or the forfeiture of a bond, when a person has been charged with a violation involving a theft or illegal gambling or with a felony.
- (j) "Division" means the Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

- (k) "Entire or net proceeds" means all moneys
 collected in exchange for the purpose of use of bingo cards,
 admissions, and related sales, less only actual business
 expenses.
- (1) "Lease" includes a lease, sublease, assignment, rental, or agreement to use any premises for the conduct of bingo, other than premises owned by an organization and used by it to conduct bingo for its own benefit.
- (m) "Lessor" means a person or organization that leases, subleases, assigns, or rents any premises to be used for the conduct of bingo or agrees to the use of the premises for the conduct of bingo.
- (n) "Objects" means a set of 75 balls or other precision shapes that are imprinted with letters and numbers in such a way that numbers 1 through 15 are marked with the letter "B," numbers 16 through 30 are marked with the letter "I," numbers 31 through 45 are marked with the letter "N," numbers 46 through 60 are marked with the letter "G," and numbers 61 through 75 are marked with the letter "O."
- (o) "Organization" means a charitable organization, authorized organization, or associational organization.
- (p) "Owner" means the organization which holds legal title to the premises on which a bingo game or a series of bingo games is played.
- (q) "Player" means a person who has paid some amount of money for one or more bingo cards and who has some expectation of receiving a prize if one or more of his or her bingo cards contains a sufficient number of numbers, letters, or combination of letters and numbers which are the same as those announced by the caller during a bingo game.

1	(r) "Premises" means an indoor or outdoor area used
2	for the conduct of bingo.
3	(s) "Principal officers" means the president, vice
4	president, or treasurer, or partner or limited partner, or
5	organization officers performing similar duties.
6	(t) "Prize" means cash or anything of value awarded to
7	a player of a bingo game or players in a series of bingo
8	games. A prize that is "predetermined" means a sum of money
9	that was determined before the bingo session, which sum is to
10	be made available to a bingo winner during the session.
11	(u) "Rack" means the container in which the objects
12	are placed after being drawn and announced.
13	(v) "Receptacle" means the container from which the
14	objects are drawn or ejected.
15	(w) "Session" means a single continuous sitting or
16	period of sitting of players assembled in any day or part of a
17	day.
18	(x) "Volunteer" means any individual who qualifies for
19	and has been granted membership in an organization and has
20	been a member for 3 months or more.
21	(4) ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT Responsibility
22	for administration and enforcement of this section is vested
23	in the division. Responsibility for enforcement also is
24	vested in the sheriff of each individual county and the police
25	of each municipality.
26	(5) POWERS AND DUTIES
27	(a) The division shall have power to regulate the
28	bingo industry under this section and the rules adopted
29	pursuant thereto.
30	(b) The division shall require an oath on all

31 applications and financial reporting documents, which oath

4 5

must state that the information contained in the document is true and complete.

- (c) The division may conduct investigations in administering and enforcing this section.
- (d) The division shall make an annual report to the Governor showing its own actions, the practical effect of the application of this section, and any suggestions it may propose for the more effective accomplishment of the purpose of this section.
- (6) CONDUCT OF BINGO; LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE REQUIRED; OTHER REQUIREMENTS.--
- (a) Bingo may only be conducted as provided in this section.
- (b) It is unlawful for any organization, other than an associational organization conducting a bingo game pursuant to subsection (16), to conduct a bingo game unless the organization holds a current license or certificate, which license or certificate shall not be under suspension or permanently or conditionally revoked. If the organization has an annual average of 50 or more players per session, it must obtain a license as provided in this section. If the organization has an annual average of fewer than 50 players per session it must obtain a certificate as provided in this section.
- (c) No organization shall serve as a sponsor of a bingo game conducted by another or allow the use of its name by any other person for the conduct of bingo.
- (d) The members, volunteers, and any other persons involved in or assisting with the conduct of any bingo game shall have been active members of the organization for a period of at least 3 months prior to appointment or

4 5

designation to conduct bingo, and proof of the length of membership shall be furnished by the organization upon demand by the division. Possession by the member or volunteer or other person of a valid identification or membership card issued by the organization containing the date of active membership and full name of the person to whom it is issued is required. Each volunteer must reside in the county where the bingo game is conducted, or within a 15-mile radius of where the bingo game is located.

- (e) No salary, compensation, tip, or reward in any form whatsoever shall be offered, paid, or given before, during, or after, directly or indirectly, to any person conducting or assisting in the conduct of bingo.
- (f) No bingo caller shall play bingo during any bingo session where the caller functions in that capacity, and no volunteer who is designated to function as the bingo caller shall play bingo in that session.
- (g) A volunteer may assist in the conduct of bingo for no more than two organizations.
 - (7) LESSORS; LICENSE REQUIRED; OTHER REQUIREMENTS.--
- (a) It is unlawful for a person to lease, sublease, assign, or rent any premises for the conduct of bingo or agree to the use of any premises for the conduct of bingo, unless that person has a current license under this section, which license is not under suspension or permanently or conditionally revoked.
- (b) No lessor and no officer, director, stockholder, employee, or any other person having an interest in the lessor shall conduct, assist, or participate in the conduct of bingo or render any service or offer, distribute, or give anything

of value to anyone conducting, assisting, or participating in the conduct of bingo.

- (c) A lessor shall have the same deposit and recordkeeping requirements with respect to all rental charges collected from organizations that conduct bingo on his or her premises as are imposed on organizations by this section.
- (8) LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE APPLICATION; FEE;

 CONTENTS.--A lessor or organization desiring to obtain a

 license or certificate to conduct bingo or to lease property
 where bingo may be played shall file an application and
 execute an oath. Each application shall be accompanied by a
 nonrefundable fee of \$150. The application shall contain at
 least the following information:
- (a) If the applicant is an individual, the individual's full name, date of birth, any aliases, current residence address, and social security number.
- (b) If the applicant is an unincorporated organization, its full name, any fictitious name filing, and the names, dates of birth, social security numbers, and residence addresses of its principal officers.
- (c) If the applicant is a corporation, the exact corporate name and state or states of incorporation, and the name, date of birth, social security number, and residence address of each officer and member of the board of directors.
- (d) If any individual listed in paragraph (a), paragraph (b), or paragraph (c) is a naturalized citizen, the date and place of naturalization.
- (e) Whether the applicant has any other license or certificate issued by any other county, state, or other jurisdiction, including whether or not such license or

certificate has been revoked or suspended, and the date any revocation or suspension took place.

- (f) The name of each bank in which the net proceeds from the conduct of bingo, or fees or rent from the lease of any premises for the conduct of bingo, are to be deposited.
- (g) The days of the week on which bingo games are to be conducted or premises rented or used to conduct bingo.
- (h) The street address and ownership of the premises for which the license is sought, if applicable.
- (i) A form authorizing the division to inspect all books or records of the applicant within 24 hours of any bingo game.
- (j) Copies of all leases, subleases, or use agreements to be used by any lessor.
- (k) A notarized statement certifying that all information contained in the application and any submittals or attachments thereto are true and that the applicant understands that any misstatement of material fact in the application will result in denial of the application.
- properly completed and filed application for a license or certificate as required by this section and upon payment of the application fee, the division shall perform an investigation to determine the eligibility of the applicant to be issued a license or certificate. Within 7 days following completion of the investigation, the division shall determine if the applicant is qualified. If the division determines the applicant is qualified, it shall issue the license or certificate. If the division determines that corrective or remedial action by the applicant is necessary to qualify for a license or certificate, the division shall notify the

4 5

applicant and afford the applicant 14 days in which to accomplish such corrective or remedial steps. If the application is denied, the division shall notify the applicant, and the applicant shall have the right to appeal such denial pursuant to chapter 120.

- (10) LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE TIME PERIODS.--
- (a) All licenses issued under this section shall expire on September 30 of each year. Renewal of a license shall involve the same process that was undertaken to obtain a license.
- (b) All certificates issued under this section shall be valid for a period of 2 years and shall expire on September 30 of the second year. Renewal of a certificate shall involve the same process that was undertaken to obtain the certificate.
 - (11) SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION. --
- (a) The division is authorized to suspend or revoke a license or certificate issued under this section when it is determined, after hearing, that:
- 1. An organization or lessor has been convicted of violating this section.
- 2. An organization or its principal officers, servants, employees, members, or volunteers, while conducting or assisting in the conduct of a bingo game, gave, offered, or distributed any service or thing of value to encourage or entice participation in the play of any bingo game.
- 3. An organization or lessor offered, paid, or gave any salary, compensation, tip, or reward in any form whatsoever, directly or indirectly, to any person or volunteer conducting or assisting in the conduct of bingo.

30

31

1 4. An organization or lessor failed to keep the 2 records or make the deposits required by this section, or 3 refused to make its records available for inspection. 5. A lessor made his or her premises available for the 4 5 conduct of bingo in a manner that was not strictly in accord 6 with this section and any rules adopted thereunder. An organization or lessor or any agent or employee 7 8 thereof has violated any provision of this section or any rule 9 adopted thereunder. 10 The division shall establish a hearing procedure 11 by rule to govern the suspension or revocation of any license or certificate granted under this section. 12 (c) Any order of suspension or revocation shall be 13 subject to appeal as provided in chapter 120. 14 (12) PROCEEDS; USE; DEPOSIT; RECORDS AND REPORTS. --15 (a) Proceeds derived from the conduct of bingo by an 16 17 organization, less actual business expenses, including those sums paid out as prizes, may only be used for those charitable 18 19 purposes which the organization was created to accomplish. The entire proceeds derived from the conduct of 20 21 bingo by an organization shall be deposited either at the 22 conclusion of each day of play or within 24 hours of play in a checking account in a bank located within the county where the 23 organization is located. Such account shall be maintained 24 separate and apart from all other accounts of the 25 organization, and shall not be used for the deposit of funds 26 27 received from any other activity. Two of the principal officers of the organization shall be required to sign all 28

checks, drafts, and other instruments withdrawing or

transferring funds from the account.

(c) Annually, or more frequently if the division
requires, each organization shall file with the division a
financial statement, on a form prescribed by the division,
which shall at least contain the sources and the amount of
gross revenue derived by the organization from the conduct of
bingo during the period for which the statement is being
filed. The statement shall be certified as correct by a
principal officer or one who controls the organization. The
statement need not be audited.

- (13) CONDUCT OF BINGO; STANDARDS.--The division shall adopt rules providing for the conduct of bingo, including the time, manner, and equipment that may be used, except that such rules shall include the following standards:
- (a) Bingo shall not be conducted between the hours of 12 midnight and 9 a.m.
- (b) No organization may conduct bingo more than 2 days during any calendar week. In any one location, only one session may be conducted by any organization in any 24-hour period.
- (c) No jackpot shall exceed the value of \$250 in actual money or its equivalent, and there shall be no more than three jackpots in any session. All other game prizes shall not exceed \$50.
- (d) All winners shall be determined and all prizes shall be awarded within the session during which the game is played.
- (e) Use of a computerized bingo card or use of a computer to conduct a bingo game in any way is prohibited.
- (f) No supplier of merchandise and no person who has been convicted of a felony or a violation of this section

shall have a pecuniary interest in the operation or proceeds of a bingo game.

- (g) No one under 18 years of age shall be allowed in any place where bingo is being played.
- (h) In determining a winner, the caller shall ask whether there are other winners. If there is no reply, the caller shall declare the game closed. No other player shall share in any prize unless such player has declared a bingo prior to the game being closed.
- (i) Seats at a bingo session may not be held or reserved by any organization or person involved in the conduct of any bingo game for players not present, nor may cards be set aside, held, or reserved from one session to another for any player.
- (j) Prior to the commencement of any session the member in charge shall cause a verification to be made of all objects to be placed in receptacles and shall inspect the objects in the presence of a disinterested person to ensure that all objects are present and that there are no duplicates or omissions on the objects. Any player shall be entitled to call for a verification of numbers before, during, and after a session.
- (k) The card or sheet on which a game is played shall be part of a deck, group, or series, no two of which may be alike in a given game.
- (1) All numbers shall be visibly displayed after being drawn and before being placed in the rack.
- (m) A bona fide bingo shall consist of a predesignated arrangement of numbers on a card or sheet that correspond with the numbers on the objects drawn from the receptacle and

announced. Errors in the numbers announced or misplaced in the rack may not be recognized as a bingo.

- (n) When the caller has started to announce a number, he or she shall complete the call. If any player has obtained a bingo on a previous number, such player will share the prize with the player who gained a bingo on the last number called.
- (o) The numbers on the winning card or sheet shall be announced and verified in the presence of another player. Any player shall be entitled, at the time a winner is determined, to call for a verification of numbers drawn. The verification shall be in the presence of the member designated to be in charge of the occasion or if such person is also the caller, then in the presence of an officer of the organization.
 - (14) FINES AND PENALTIES. --
- (a) The division may impose an administrative fine for a violation of this section of not more than \$1,000 for each separate offense, and may suspend or revoke any license or certificate for violation of this section.
- (b) Any person who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.

 775.083. For a second or subsequent offense, such person commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (15) NO PREEMPTION.--This section does not preempt or prevent any county from adopting an ordinance with the same or stricter regulations. Any county that has such an ordinance in effect on the effective date of this section shall be entitled to continue under that ordinance, there being no intent to preempt or repeal such ordinances by adoption of this section.

1 (16) CONDUCT OF BINGO; ASSOCIATIONAL ORGANIZATION. -- An 2 associational organization may conduct bingo, exempt from the 3 provisions of this section and any local ordinance, 4 conditioned upon the return of the net proceeds from such 5 games to players in the form of prizes, after having deducted 6 the actual business expenses for such games for articles 7 designed for and essential to the operation, conduct, and 8 playing of bingo. Any net proceeds remaining after paying 9 prizes may be donated by the association to a charitable, 10 nonprofit, or veterans' organization that is exempt from 11 federal income tax under the provisions of s. 501(c) of the 12 Internal Revenue Code, to be used in the recipient organization's charitable, civic, community, benevolent, 13 14 religious, or scholastic works on similar activities. 15 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 1998. 16 17 18 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY 19 Revises provisions which regulate the conduct of bingo. Provides for administration and enforcement by the Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering and county sheriffs and municipal police. Provides powers and duties of the 20 division. Provides requirements for the conduct of bingo by charitable organizations, associational organizations, and authorized organizations. Requires such 21 22 organizations to obtain a license or certificate.
Provides that an associational organization may conduct bingo under certain conditions and not be required to obtain a license or to comply with other provisions of the act. Requires lessors of premises for the conduct of bingo to be licensed and provides requirements relating to such lessors. Provides application requirements for licenses and certificates and provides for fees 23 24 25 licenses and certificates and provides for fees.
Provides for processing of applications by the division.
Specifies license and certificate time periods. Provide conditions under which licenses or certificates may be 26 27 Provides suspended or revoked. Provides restrictions on use the proceeds. Provides requirements for deposit of Provides restrictions on use of 2.8 proceeds. Requires reports. Provides minimum standards for the conduct of bingo. Provides for administrative fines and criminal penalties. Specifies that the act does not prevent any county from adopting the same or stricter regulations. 2.9 30 31