

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 258
SPONSOR: Senator Fasano
SUBJECT: Bingo
DATE: February 3, 2004 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sumner	Imhof	RI	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill amends the rules for conducting authorized bingo games provided in s. 849.0931(12)(g), F.S., by authorizing the use of electronic or other commercially available technology in lieu of the vocal verification when announcing and verifying numbers on winning cards or sheets.

This bill amends s. 849.0931, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Section 849.0931(12), F.S., provides for the rules for conducting authorized bingo games. Subsection (12) requires that numbers on the winning cards or sheets be announced and verified in the presence of another player. Any player is entitled at the time the winner is determined to call for a verification of numbers drawn. The verification must be in the presence of the member designated to be in charge of the occasion or, if such person is also the caller, in the presence of an officer of the licensee.

In response to an inquiry on whether an announcement of the winning bingo card or sheet must be vocal, the Attorney General has opined that s. 849.0931(12)(g), F.S., requires that the announcement of the winning card or sheets shall be a vocal announcement of the numbers in the winning pattern.¹ The opinion noted that it would be permissible to use an electronic or mechanical posting to show the winning pattern in addition to the vocal announcement.

In July, 2003, the Attorney General's Office reaffirmed its 1996 opinion in response to an inquiry regarding whether vocal verification was still required under s. 849.0931(12)(g), F.S.

¹ Fla. AGO 96-17

The office further indicated that any changes in which the manner of verification is conducted would require an amendment to the statutory section.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends the rules for conducting bingo games provided in s. 849.0931(12)(g), F.S., by authorizing the use of electronic or other commercially available technology in lieu of vocal verification when announcing and verifying numbers on winning cards or sheets.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.