

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.)

Prepared By: Regulated Industries Committee

BILL: SB 310

SPONSOR: Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: Bingo

DATE: January 25, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Sumner</u>	<u>Imhof</u>	<u>RI</u>	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. Verification by other than vocal means must be confined to the premises where the bingo session is held and may not be transmitted to any other location.

This bill substantially amends section 849.0931, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 849.0931, 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.

¹ Fla. AGO 96-17

In July 2003, the Attorney General's Office reaffirmed its 1996 opinion in response to an inquiry by the sponsor regarding whether vocal verification was still required under s. 849.0931(12)(g), F.S. 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. Verification by other than vocal means must be confined to the premises where the bingo session is held and may not be transmitted to any other location.

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.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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