

By the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senator Fasano

580-04194-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to bingo games; amending s. 849.0931,  
3 F.S.; authorizing the use of electronics or other  
4 technology in lieu of vocal verification for bingo games;  
5 amending s. 849.0935, F.S.; revising the definition of  
6 "organization" to include chambers of commerce; exempting  
7 chambers of commerce from provisions prohibiting drawings  
8 by chance; authorizing an organization to place signs at a  
9 bingo game event disclosing certain required information;  
10 providing an effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14 Section 1. Paragraph (g) of subsection (12) of section  
15 849.0931, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 849.0931 Bingo authorized; conditions for conduct;  
17 permitted uses of proceeds; limitations.--

18 (12) Each bingo game shall be conducted in accordance with  
19 the following rules:

20 (g) Numbers on the winning cards or sheets shall be  
21 announced and verified in the presence of another player. Any  
22 player is ~~shall be~~ entitled at the time the winner is determined  
23 to call for a verification of numbers drawn. The verification  
24 shall be in the presence of the member designated to be in charge  
25 of the occasion or, if such person is also the caller, in the  
26 presence of an officer of the licensee. Verification may also be  
27 provided through the use of electronic or other commercially  
28 available technology in lieu of vocal verification. Verification  
29 by other than vocal means must be confined to the premises at

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30 which the bingo session is held and may not be transmitted to any  
31 other location.

32 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsections  
33 (2) and (3) of section 849.0935, Florida Statutes, are amended to  
34 read:

35 849.0935 Charitable, nonprofit organizations; drawings by  
36 chance; required disclosures; unlawful acts and practices;  
37 penalties.--

38 (1) As used in this section, the term:

39 (b) "Organization" means an organization that ~~which~~ is  
40 exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C. s.  
41 501(c)(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), or (19), or a chamber of commerce  
42 that is exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C.  
43 s. 501(c)(6), and that ~~which~~ has a current determination letter  
44 from the Internal Revenue Service, and includes the  
45 organization's ~~its~~ bona fide members or officers.

46 (2) The provisions of s. 849.09 do ~~shall~~ not be construed  
47 ~~to~~ prohibit an organization qualified under 26 U.S.C. s.  
48 501(c)(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), or (19), or a chamber of commerce  
49 qualified under 26 U.S.C. s. 501(c)(6), from conducting drawings  
50 by chance pursuant to the authority granted by this section if,  
51 ~~provided~~ the organization has complied with all applicable  
52 provisions of chapter 496.

53 (3) All brochures, advertisements, notices, tickets, or  
54 entry blanks used in connection with a drawing by chance shall  
55 conspicuously disclose:

56 (a) The rules governing the conduct and operation of the  
57 drawing.

58 (b) The full name of the organization and its principal

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59 | place of business.

60 |       (c) The source of the funds used to award cash prizes or to  
61 | purchase prizes.

62 |       (d) The date, hour, and place where the winner will be  
63 | chosen and the prizes will be awarded, unless the brochures,  
64 | advertisements, notices, tickets, or entry blanks are not offered  
65 | to the public more than 3 days prior to the drawing.

66 |       (e) That no purchase or contribution is necessary.

67 |  
68 | When an organization is conducting a drawing by chance and the  
69 | tickets are offered only at the location where prizes are to be  
70 | awarded and are offered 3 hours or less before the awarding of  
71 | prizes, the organization may, in lieu of printing the requirement  
72 | of paragraphs (a)-(e) on all items relating to the drawing, place  
73 | at least three signs conspicuously disclosing the information  
74 | required in paragraphs (a)-(e) at the event location.

75 |       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.