

By Senator Dean

3-01496A-10

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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 electronic devices to be used for  
4           certain functions in the conduct of bingo games;  
5           providing an effective date.

6  
7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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9           Section 1. Subsection (12) of section 849.0931, Florida  
10 Statutes, is amended to read:

11           849.0931 Bingo authorized; conditions for conduct;  
12 permitted uses of proceeds; limitations.—

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

15           (a) The objects, whether drawn or ejected, shall be  
16 essentially equal as to size, shape, weight, and balance and as  
17 to all other characteristics that may control their selection  
18 from the receptacle. The caller shall cancel any game if, during  
19 the course of a game, the mechanism used in the drawing or  
20 ejection of objects becomes jammed in such a manner as to  
21 interfere with the accurate determination of the next number to  
22 be announced or if the caller determines that more than one  
23 object is labeled with the same number or that there is a number  
24 to be drawn without a corresponding object. Any player in a game  
25 canceled pursuant to this paragraph shall be permitted to play  
26 the next game free of charge.

27           (b) Prior to commencement of any bingo session, the member  
28 in charge shall cause a verification to be made of all objects  
29 to be placed in the receptacle and shall inspect the objects in

3-01496A-10

20102012

30 the presence of a disinterested person to ensure that all  
31 objects are present and that there are no duplications or  
32 omissions of numbers on the objects. Any player shall be  
33 entitled to call for a verification of numbers before, during,  
34 and after a session.

35 (c) The card or sheet on which the game is played shall be  
36 part of a deck, group, or series, no two of which may be alike  
37 in any given game.

38 (d) All numbers shall be visibly displayed after being  
39 drawn and before being placed in the rack.

40 (e) A bona fide bingo shall consist of a predesignated  
41 arrangement of numbers on a card or sheet that correspond with  
42 the numbers on the objects drawn from the receptacle and  
43 announced. Errors in numbers announced or misplaced in the rack  
44 may not be recognized as a bingo.

45 (f) When a caller has started to vocally announce a number,  
46 the caller shall complete the call. If any player has obtained a  
47 bingo on a previous number, such player will share the prize  
48 with the player who gained bingo on the last number called.

49 (g) Numbers on the winning cards or sheets shall be  
50 announced and verified in the presence of another player. Any  
51 player shall be entitled at the time the winner is determined to  
52 call for a verification of numbers drawn. The verification shall  
53 be in the presence of the member designated to be in charge of  
54 the occasion or, if such person is also the caller, in the  
55 presence of an officer of the licensee.

56 (h) Upon determining a winner, the caller shall ask, "Are  
57 there any other winners?" If no one replies, the caller shall  
58 declare the game closed. No other player is entitled to share

3-01496A-10

20102012\_\_

59 the prize unless she or he has declared a bingo prior to this  
60 announcement.

61 (i) Seats may not be held or reserved by an organization or  
62 person involved in the conduct of any bingo game for players not  
63 present, nor may any cards be set aside, held, or reserved from  
64 one session to another for any player.

65 (j) The provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), and (d) may be  
66 satisfied by electronic devices that provide the same  
67 functionality.

68 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.