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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1782**

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 13, 2015

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-340.16 and 18.2-340.31 of the Code of Virginia, relating to charitable gaming; annual audit and administration fee.*

Patrons—Leftwich and Spruill

Referred to Committee on General Laws

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 18.2-340.16 and 18.2-340.31 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 18.2-340.16. Definitions.**

As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Adjusted gross receipts" means the total amount of money generated by an organization from charitable gaming before the deduction of expenses, but after the deduction of prizes.

"Bingo" means a specific game of chance played with (i) individual cards having randomly numbered squares ranging from one to 75, (ii) Department-approved electronic devices that display facsimiles of bingo cards and are used for the purpose of marking and monitoring players' cards as numbers are called, or (iii) Department-approved cards, in which prizes are awarded on the basis of designated numbers on such cards conforming to a predetermined pattern of numbers selected at random.

"Board" means the Charitable Gaming Board created pursuant to § 2.2-2455.

"Bona fide member" means an individual who participates in activities of a qualified organization other than such organization's charitable gaming activities.

"Charitable gaming" or "charitable games" means those raffles and games of chance explicitly authorized by this article.

"Charitable gaming supplies" includes bingo cards or sheets, devices for selecting bingo numbers, instant bingo cards, pull-tab cards and seal cards, and any other equipment or product manufactured for or intended to be used in the conduct of charitable games. However for the purposes of this article, charitable gaming supplies shall not include items incidental to the conduct of charitable gaming such as markers, wands or tape.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"Conduct" means the actions associated with the provision of a gaming operation during and immediately before or after the permitted activity, which may include, but not be limited to, (i) selling bingo cards or packs, electronic devices, instant bingo or pull-tab cards, or raffle tickets, (ii) calling bingo games, (iii) distributing prizes, and (iv) any other services provided by volunteer workers.

"Department" means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"Fair market rental value" means the rent that a rental property will bring when offered for lease by a lessor who desires to lease the property but is not obligated to do so and leased by a lessee under no necessity of leasing.

"Gaming expenses" means prizes, supplies, costs of publicizing gaming activities, audit and administration or permit fees, and a portion of the rent, utilities, accounting and legal fees and such other reasonable and proper expenses as are directly incurred for the conduct of charitable gaming.

"Gross receipts" means the total amount of money generated by an organization from charitable gaming before the deduction of expenses, including prizes.

"Instant bingo," "pull tabs," or "seal cards" means specific games of chance played by the random selection of one or more individually prepacked cards, including Department-approved electronic versions thereof, with winners being determined by the preprinted or predetermined appearance of concealed letters, numbers or symbols that must be exposed by the player to determine wins and losses and may include the use of a seal card which conceals one or more numbers or symbols that have been designated in advance as prize winners. Such cards may be dispensed by electronic or mechanical equipment.

"Jackpot" means a bingo game that the organization has designated on its game program as a jackpot game in which the prize amount is greater than \$100.

"Landlord" means any person or his agent, firm, association, organization, partnership, or corporation, employee, or immediate family member thereof, which owns and leases, or leases any premises devoted in whole or in part to the conduct of bingo games, and any person residing in the same household as a landlord.

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59 "Management" means the provision of oversight of a gaming operation, which may include, but is  
60 not limited to, the responsibilities of applying for and maintaining a permit or authorization, compiling,  
61 submitting and maintaining required records and financial reports, and ensuring that all aspects of the  
62 operation are in compliance with all applicable statutes and regulations.

63 "Network bingo" means a specific bingo game in which pari-mutuel play is permitted.

64 "Network bingo provider" means a person licensed by the Department to operate network bingo.

65 "Operation" means the activities associated with production of a charitable gaming activity, which  
66 may include, but not be limited to (i) the direct on-site supervision of the conduct of charitable gaming;  
67 (ii) coordination of volunteers; and (iii) all responsibilities of charitable gaming designated by the  
68 organization's management.

69 "Organization" means any one of the following:

70 1. A volunteer fire department or rescue squad or auxiliary unit thereof which has been recognized in  
71 accordance with § 15.2-955 by an ordinance or resolution of the political subdivision where the  
72 volunteer fire department or rescue squad is located as being a part of the safety program of such  
73 political subdivision;

74 2. An organization operated exclusively for religious, charitable, community or educational purposes;

75 3. An athletic association or booster club or a band booster club established solely to raise funds for  
76 school-sponsored athletic or band activities for a public school or private school accredited pursuant to  
77 § 22.1-19 or to provide scholarships to students attending such school;

78 4. An association of war veterans or auxiliary units thereof organized in the United States;

79 5. A fraternal association or corporation operating under the lodge system;

80 6. A local chamber of commerce; or

81 7. Any other nonprofit organization that raises funds by conducting raffles that generate annual gross  
82 receipts of \$40,000 or less, provided such gross receipts from the raffle, less expenses and prizes, are  
83 used exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or community purposes.

84 "Pari-mutuel play" means an integrated network operated by a licensee of the Department comprised  
85 of participating charitable organizations for the conduct of network bingo games in which the purchase  
86 of a network bingo card by a player automatically includes the player in a pool with all other players in  
87 the network, and where the prize to the winning player is awarded based on a percentage of the total  
88 amount of network bingo cards sold in a particular network.

89 "Qualified organization" means any organization to which a valid permit has been issued by the  
90 Department to conduct charitable gaming or any organization that is exempt pursuant to § 18.2-340.23.

91 "Raffle" means a lottery in which the prize is won by (i) a random drawing of the name or  
92 prearranged number of one or more persons purchasing chances or (ii) a random contest in which the  
93 winning name or preassigned number of one or more persons purchasing chances is determined by a  
94 race involving inanimate objects floating on a body of water, commonly referred to as a "duck race."

95 "Reasonable and proper business expenses" means business expenses actually incurred by a qualified  
96 organization in the conduct of charitable gaming and not otherwise allowed under this article or under  
97 Board regulations on real estate and personal property tax payments, travel expenses, payments of  
98 utilities and trash collection services, legal and accounting fees, costs of business furniture, fixtures and  
99 office equipment and costs of acquisition, maintenance, repair or construction of an organization's real  
100 property. For the purpose of this definition, salaries and wages of employees whose primary  
101 responsibility is to provide services for the principal benefit of an organization's members shall not  
102 qualify as a business expense. However, payments made pursuant to § 51.1-1204 to the Volunteer  
103 Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund shall be deemed a reasonable and proper  
104 business expense.

105 "Supplier" means any person who offers to sell, sells or otherwise provides charitable gaming  
106 supplies to any qualified organization.

107 **§ 18.2-340.31. Audit of reports; exemption; audit and administration fee.**

108 A. All reports filed pursuant to § 18.2-340.30 shall be subject to audit by the Department in  
109 accordance with Board regulations. The Department may engage the services of independent certified  
110 public accountants to perform any audits deemed necessary to fulfill the Department's responsibilities  
111 under this article.

112 B. The Department shall prescribe a reasonable audit and administration fee to be paid by any  
113 organization conducting charitable gaming under a permit issued by the Department unless the  
114 organization is exempt from such fee pursuant to § 18.2-340.23. Such fee shall not exceed one and  
115 one-quarter percent of the *adjusted* gross receipts which an organization reports pursuant to  
116 § 18.2-340.30. The audit and administration fee shall accompany each report for each calendar quarter.

117 C. The audit and administration fee shall be payable to the Treasurer of Virginia. All such fees  
118 received by the Treasurer of Virginia shall be separately accounted for and shall be used only by the  
119 Department for the purposes of auditing and regulating charitable gaming.