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HOUSE BILL NO. 1233

Offered January 19, 2016

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-340.27 of the Code of Virginia, relating to charitable gaming; conduct of bingo games.*

Patron—Leftwich

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 18.2-340.27 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 18.2-340.27. Conduct of bingo games; special permits.**

A. A qualified organization shall accept only cash or, at its option, checks or debit cards in payment of any charges or assessments for players to participate in bingo games. However, no such organization shall accept postdated checks in payment of any charges or assessments for players to participate in bingo games.

B. No qualified organization or any person on the premises shall extend lines of credit or accept any credit or other electronic fund transfer other than debit cards in payment of any charges or assessments for players to participate in bingo games.

C. Bingo games may be held by qualified organizations no more frequently than two calendar days in any calendar week, except in accordance with subsection E.

D. No more than two sessions of bingo games may be held by qualified organizations in any calendar day, nor shall there be more than 55 bingo games per session.

E. A special permit may be granted a qualified organization which entitles it to conduct more frequent operations of bingo games during carnivals, fairs and state, federal or religious holidays, which shall be designated in the permit.

F. Any organization may conduct bingo games only in the county, city or town or in any adjoining county, city or town in which they regularly have been in existence or met. The Department may approve exceptions to this requirement where there is a special circumstance or documented need.

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