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HOUSE BILL NO. 1230

Offered January 19, 2022

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-340.26:1 and 18.2-340.27 of the Code of Virginia, relating to conducting charitable gaming; location requirement.

Patron—Robinson

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 18.2-340.26:1 and 18.2-340.27 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-340.26:1. Sale of instant bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards; proceeds not counted as gross receipts.

A. Instant bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards may be sold only (i) by a qualified organization, as defined in § 18.2-340.16, (ii) upon premises that are owned or exclusively and entirely leased by the qualified organization, and (iii) at such times that the premises in which the instant bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards are sold is open only to members and their guests via controlled access. No organization, except for an association of war veterans or auxiliary units thereof organized in the United States or a fraternal association or corporation operating under the lodge system, may sell instant bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards (a) at a location outside of the county, city, or town in which the organization's principal office, as registered with the State Corporation Commission, is located or in an adjoining county, city, or town or (b) at an establishment that has been granted a license pursuant to Chapter 2 (§ 4.1-200 et seq.) of Title 4.1 unless such license is held by the organization. Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit the conduct of games of chance involving the sale of pull tabs, or seal cards, commonly known as last sale games, conducted in accordance with this section.

B. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 15 of the definition of "organization" in § 18.2-340.16, the proceeds from instant bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards shall not be included in determining the gross receipts for a qualified organization provided the gaming (i) is limited exclusively to members of the organization and their guests, (ii) is not open to the general public, and (iii) there is no public solicitation or advertisement made regarding such gaming.

C. No more than 18 devices that facilitate the play of electronic versions of instant bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards, commonly referred to as electronic pull tabs, may be used upon the premises owned or exclusively leased by the organization and at such times as the portion of the premises in which the instant bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards are sold is open only to members and their guests.

§ 18.2-340.27. Conduct of bingo games.

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 on any calendar day.

D. Qualified organizations may hold an unlimited number of bingo sessions on any calendar day.

E. Any organization may conduct bingo games only in the any county, city, or town in which its principal office, as registered with the State Corporation Commission, is located or in an adjoining county, city, or town the Commonwealth. An organization shall have only one principal office. An No organization, except for an association of war veterans or auxiliary units thereof organized in the United States or any fraternal organization or corporation operating under the lodge system may not conduct bingo games at an establishment that has been granted a license pursuant to Chapter 2 (§ 4.1-200 et seq.) of Title 4.1 unless such license is held by the organization. This subsection shall not apply to any association of war veterans or auxiliary units thereof organized in the United States or any fraternal association or corporation operating under the lodge system.

INTRODUCED

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