

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-340.19, 18.2-340.24, 18.2-340.25, 18.2-340.27, 18.2-340.28,*  
3 *18.2-340.28:1, and 18.2-340.33 of the Code of Virginia, and to repeal § 18.2-340.27:1, relating to*  
4 *the conduct of charitable gaming.*

5 [S 199]  
6 Approved

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

8 **1. That §§ 18.2-340.19, 18.2-340.24, 18.2-340.25, 18.2-340.27, 18.2-340.28, 18.2-340.28:1, and**  
9 **18.2-340.33 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

10 **§ 18.2-340.19. Regulations of the Board.**

11 A. The Board shall adopt regulations that:

12 1. Require, as a condition of receiving a permit, that the applicant use a predetermined percentage of  
13 its gross receipts for (i) those lawful religious, charitable, community or educational purposes for which  
14 the organization is specifically chartered or organized or (ii) those expenses relating to the acquisition,  
15 construction, maintenance or repair of any interest in real property involved in the operation of the  
16 organization and used for lawful religious, charitable, community or educational purposes. The  
17 regulation may provide for a graduated scale of percentages of gross receipts to be used in the foregoing  
18 manner based upon factors the Board finds appropriate to and consistent with the purpose of charitable  
19 gaming.

20 2. Specify the conditions under which a complete list of the organization's members who participate  
21 in the management, operation or conduct of charitable gaming may be required in order for the Board to  
22 ascertain the percentage of Virginia residents in accordance with subdivision A 3 of § 18.2-340.24.

23 Membership lists furnished to the Board or Department in accordance with this subdivision shall not  
24 be a matter of public record and shall be exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Freedom of  
25 Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.).

26 3. Prescribe fees for processing applications for charitable gaming permits. Such fees may reflect the  
27 nature and extent of the charitable gaming activity proposed to be conducted.

28 4. Establish requirements for the audit of all reports required in accordance with § 18.2-340.30.

29 5. Define electronic and mechanical equipment used in the conduct of charitable gaming. Board  
30 regulations shall include capacity for such equipment to provide full automatic daubing as numbers are  
31 called. For the purposes of this subdivision, electronic or mechanical equipment for instant bingo, pull  
32 tabs, or seal cards shall include such equipment that displays facsimiles of instant bingo, pull tabs, or  
33 seal cards and are used solely for the purpose of dispensing or opening such paper or electronic cards,  
34 or both; but shall not include (i) devices operated by dropping one or more coins or tokens into a slot  
35 and pulling a handle or pushing a button or touchpoint on a touchscreen to activate one to three or more  
36 reels marked into horizontal segments by varying symbols, where the predetermined prize amount  
37 depends on how and how many of the symbols line up when the rotating reels come to rest, or (ii) other  
38 similar devices that display flashing lights or illuminations, or bells, whistles, or other sounds, solely  
39 intended to entice players to play.

40 6. Prescribe the conditions under which a qualified organization may (i) provide food and  
41 nonalcoholic beverages to its members who participate in the management, operation or conduct of  
42 bingo; (ii) permit members who participate in the management, operation or conduct of bingo to play  
43 bingo; and (iii) subject to the provisions of subdivision ~~12~~ 12 of § 18.2-340.33, permit nonmembers to  
44 participate in the conduct of bingo so long as the nonmembers are under the direct supervision of a  
45 bona fide member of the organization during the bingo game.

46 7. Prescribe the conditions under which a qualified organization may sell raffle tickets for a raffle  
47 drawing that will be held outside the Commonwealth pursuant to subsection B of § 18.2-340.26.

48 8. Prescribe the conditions under which persons who are bona fide members of a qualified  
49 organization or a child, above the age of 13 years, of a bona fide member of such organization may  
50 participate in the conduct or operation of bingo games.

51 9. Prescribe the conditions under which a person below the age of 18 years may play bingo,  
52 provided such person is accompanied by his parent or legal guardian.

53 10. Require all qualified organizations that are subject to Board regulations to post in a conspicuous  
54 place in every place where charitable gaming is conducted a sign which bears a toll-free telephone  
55 number for "Gamblers Anonymous" or other organization which provides assistance to compulsive  
56 gamblers.

57 11. Prescribe the conditions under which a qualified organization may sell network bingo cards in  
58 accordance with § 18.2-340.28:1 and establish a percentage of proceeds derived from network bingo  
59 sales to be allocated to (i) prize pools, (ii) the organization conducting the network bingo, and (iii) the  
60 network bingo provider. The regulations shall also establish procedures for the retainage and ultimate  
61 distribution of any unclaimed prize.

62 B. In addition to the powers and duties granted pursuant to § 2.2-2456 and this article, the Board  
63 may, by regulation, approve variations to the card formats for bingo games provided such variations  
64 result in bingo games that are conducted in a manner consistent with the provisions of this article.  
65 Board-approved variations may include, but are not limited to, bingo games commonly referred to as  
66 player selection games and 90-number bingo.

67 **§ 18.2-340.24. Eligibility for permit; exceptions; where valid.**

68 A. To be eligible for a permit to conduct charitable gaming, an organization shall:

69 1. Have been in existence and met on a regular basis in the Commonwealth for a period of at least  
70 three years immediately prior to applying for a permit.

71 The three-year residency requirement shall not apply (i) to any lodge or chapter of a national or  
72 international fraternal order or of a national or international civic organization which is exempt under  
73 § 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code and which has a lodge or chapter holding a  
74 charitable gaming permit issued under the provisions of this article anywhere within the Commonwealth;  
75 (ii) to booster clubs which have been operating for less than three years and which have been  
76 established solely to raise funds for school-sponsored activities in public schools or private schools  
77 accredited pursuant to § 22.1-19; (iii) to recently established volunteer fire and rescue companies or  
78 departments, after county, city or town approval; or (iv) to an organization which relocates its meeting  
79 place on a permanent basis from one jurisdiction to another, complies with the requirements of  
80 subdivision 2 of this section, and was the holder of a valid permit at the time of its relocation.

81 2. Be operating currently and have always been operated as a nonprofit organization.

82 3. Have at least 50 percent of its membership consist of residents of the Commonwealth; however, if  
83 an organization (i) does not consist of bona fide members and (ii) is exempt under § 501(c)(3) of the  
84 United States Internal Revenue Code, the Board shall exempt such organizations from the requirements  
85 of this subdivision.

86 B. Any organization whose gross receipts from all charitable gaming exceeds or can be expected to  
87 exceed \$40,000 in any calendar year shall have been granted tax-exempt status pursuant to § 501(c) of  
88 the United States Internal Revenue Code. At the same time tax-exempt status is sought from the Internal  
89 Revenue Service, the same documentation may be filed with the Department in conjunction with an  
90 application for a charitable gaming permit. If such documentation is filed, the Department may, after  
91 reviewing such documentation it deems necessary, issue a charitable gaming permit.

92 C. A permit shall be valid only for the ~~locations,~~ dates, and times designated in the permit.

93 **§ 18.2-340.25. Permit required; application fee; form of application.**

94 A. Except as provided for in § 18.2-340.23, prior to the commencement of any charitable game, an  
95 organization shall obtain a permit from the Department.

96 B. All complete applications for a permit shall be acted upon by the Department within 45 days from  
97 the filing thereof. Upon compliance by the applicant with the provisions of this article, and at the  
98 discretion of the Department, a permit may be issued. All permits when issued shall be valid for the  
99 period specified in the permit unless it is sooner suspended or revoked. No permit shall be valid for  
100 longer than two years. The application shall be a matter of public record.

101 All permits shall be subject to regulation by the Department to ensure the public safety and welfare  
102 in the operation of charitable games. The permit shall only be granted after a reasonable investigation  
103 has been conducted by the Department. The Department may require any prospective employee, permit  
104 holder or applicant to submit to fingerprinting and to provide personal descriptive information to be  
105 forwarded along with employee's, licensee's or applicant's fingerprints through the Central Criminal  
106 Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purposes of obtaining criminal history  
107 record information regarding such prospective employee, permit holder or applicant. The Central  
108 Criminal Records Exchange upon receipt of a prospective employee, licensee or applicant record or  
109 notification that no record exists, shall forward the report to the Commissioner of the Department or his  
110 designee, who shall belong to a governmental entity. However, nothing in this subsection shall be  
111 construed to require the routine fingerprinting of volunteer bingo workers.

112 C. In no case shall an organization receive more than one permit allowing it to conduct charitable  
113 gaming; ~~however, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit granting special permits pursuant~~  
114 ~~to § 18.2-340.27:1.~~

115 D. Application for a charitable gaming permit shall be made on forms prescribed by the Department  
116 and shall be accompanied by payment of the fee for processing the application.

117 E. Applications for renewal of permits shall be made in accordance with Board Regulations. If a

118 complete renewal application is received 45 days or more prior to the expiration of the permit, the  
119 permit shall continue to be effective until such time as the Department has taken final action. Otherwise,  
120 the permit shall expire at the end of its term.

121 F. The failure to meet any of the requirements of § 18.2-340.24 shall cause the automatic denial of  
122 the permit, and no organization shall conduct any charitable gaming until the requirements are met and a  
123 permit is obtained.

124 **§ 18.2-340.27. Conduct of bingo games.**

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

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

132 C. Bingo games may be held by qualified organizations ~~no more frequently than two calendar days~~  
133 ~~in any calendar week, except in accordance with § 18.2-340.27:1 on any calendar day.~~

134 D. ~~No more than two sessions of bingo games may be held by qualified organizations in Qualified~~  
135 ~~organizations may hold an unlimited number of bingo sessions on any calendar day; nor shall there be~~  
136 ~~more than 55 bingo games per session.~~

137 E. Any organization may conduct bingo games ~~only in the county, city or town or in any adjoining~~  
138 ~~county, city or town in which they regularly have been in existence or met. The Department may~~  
139 ~~approve exceptions to this requirement where there is a special circumstance or documented need at any~~  
140 ~~location within the Commonwealth.~~

141 **§ 18.2-340.28. Conduct of instant bingo, network bingo, pull tabs and seal cards.**

142 A. Any organization qualified to conduct bingo games pursuant to the provisions of this article may  
143 play instant bingo, network bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards as a part of such bingo game and, if a permit  
144 is required pursuant to § 18.2-340.25, such games shall be played only at such ~~location and at such~~  
145 ~~times as designated in the permit for regular bingo games.~~

146 B. Any organization conducting instant bingo, network bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards shall maintain a  
147 record of the date, quantity and card value of instant bingo supplies purchased as well as the name and  
148 address of the supplier of such supplies. The organization shall also maintain a written invoice or receipt  
149 from a nonmember of the organization verifying any information required by this subsection. Such  
150 supplies shall be paid for only by check drawn on the gaming account of the organization. A complete  
151 inventory of all such gaming supplies shall be maintained by the organization on the premises where the  
152 gaming is being conducted.

153 C. No qualified organization shall sell any instant bingo, network bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards to  
154 any individual younger than 18 years of age. No individual younger than 18 years of age shall play or  
155 redeem any instant bingo, network bingo, pull tabs, or seal cards.

156 **§ 18.2-340.28:1. Conduct of network bingo.**

157 A. Any organization qualified to conduct bingo games pursuant to the provisions of this article may  
158 sell network bingo cards as a part of a regular bingo game and, if a permit is required pursuant to  
159 § 18.2-340.25, network bingo shall be sold only at such ~~location and at such~~ times as designated in the  
160 permit for regular bingo games.

161 B. Any organization selling network bingo cards shall maintain a record of the date and quantity of  
162 network bingo cards purchased from a licensed network bingo provider. The organization shall also  
163 maintain a written invoice or receipt from a licensed supplier verifying any information required by this  
164 subsection. Such supplies shall be paid for only by check drawn on the gaming account of the  
165 organization or by electronic fund transfer. A complete inventory of all such gaming supplies shall be  
166 maintained by the organization on the premises where network bingo cards are sold.

167 C. No qualified organization shall sell any network bingo cards to any individual younger than 18  
168 years of age. No individual younger than 18 years of age shall play or redeem any network bingo cards.

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

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

176 F. No qualified organization shall conduct network bingo more frequently than one day in any  
177 calendar week, which shall not be the same day of each week.

178 G. No network bingo games shall be permitted in the social quarters of an organization that are open

179 only to the organization's members and their guests.

180 H. No qualified organization shall sell network bingo cards on the Internet or other online service or  
 181 allow the play of network bingo on the Internet or other online service. However, the location where  
 182 network bingo games are conducted shall be equipped with a video monitor, television, or video screen,  
 183 or any other similar means of visually displaying a broadcast or signal, that relays live, real-time video  
 184 of the numbers as they are called by a live caller. The Internet or other online service may be used to  
 185 relay information about winning players.

186 I. Qualified organizations may award network bingo prizes on a graduated scale; however, no single  
 187 network bingo prize shall exceed \$25,000.

188 J. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an organization from participating in more  
 189 than one network bingo network.

190 **§ 18.2-340.33. Prohibited practices.**

191 In addition to those other practices prohibited by this article, the following acts or practices are  
 192 prohibited:

193 1. No part of the gross receipts derived by a qualified organization may be used for any purpose  
 194 other than (i) reasonable and proper gaming expenses, (ii) reasonable and proper business expenses, (iii)  
 195 those lawful religious, charitable, community or educational purposes for which the organization is  
 196 specifically chartered or organized, and (iv) expenses relating to the acquisition, construction,  
 197 maintenance, or repair of any interest in the real property involved in the operation of the organization  
 198 and used for lawful religious, charitable, community or educational purposes. For the purposes of clause  
 199 (iv), such expenses may include the expenses of a corporation formed for the purpose of serving as the  
 200 real estate holding entity of a qualified organization, provided (a) such holding entity is qualified as a  
 201 tax exempt organization under § 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and (b) the membership of the  
 202 qualified organization is identical to such holding entity.

203 2. Except as provided in § 18.2-340.34:1, no qualified organization shall enter into a contract with or  
 204 otherwise employ for compensation any person for the purpose of organizing, managing, or conducting  
 205 any charitable games. However, organizations composed of or for deaf or blind persons may use a part  
 206 of their gross receipts for costs associated with providing clerical assistance in the management and  
 207 operation but not the conduct of charitable gaming.

208 The provisions of this subdivision shall not prohibit the joint operation of bingo games held in  
 209 accordance with § 18.2-340.29.

210 3. No person shall pay or receive for use of any premises devoted, in whole or in part, to the  
 211 conduct of any charitable games, any consideration in excess of the current fair market rental value of  
 212 such property. Fair market rental value consideration shall not be based upon or determined by reference  
 213 to a percentage of the proceeds derived from the operation of any charitable games or to the number of  
 214 people in attendance at such charitable games.

215 4. ~~No building or other premises shall be utilized in whole or in part for the purpose of conducting~~  
 216 ~~charitable gaming more frequently than two calendar days in any one calendar week. However, no~~  
 217 ~~building or other premises owned by (i) a qualified organization which is exempt from taxation pursuant~~  
 218 ~~to § 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) any county, city or town shall be utilized in whole or in~~  
 219 ~~part for the purpose of conducting bingo games more frequently than four calendar days in any one~~  
 220 ~~calendar week.~~

221 ~~The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the playing of bingo games pursuant to a special~~  
 222 ~~permit issued in accordance with § 18.2-340.27:1.~~

223 5. No person shall participate in the management or operation of any charitable game unless such  
 224 person is and, for a period of at least 30 days immediately preceding such participation, has been a bona  
 225 fide member of the organization. For any organization that is not composed of members, a person who  
 226 is not a bona fide member may volunteer in the conduct of a charitable game as long as that person is  
 227 directly supervised by a bona fide official member of the organization.

228 The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to (i) persons employed as clerical assistants by  
 229 qualified organizations composed of or for deaf or blind persons; (ii) employees of a corporate sponsor  
 230 of a qualified organization, provided such employees' participation is limited to the management,  
 231 operation or conduct of no more than one raffle per year; (iii) the spouse or family member of any such  
 232 bona fide member of a qualified organization provided at least one bona fide member is present; or (iv)  
 233 persons employed by a qualified organization authorized to sell pull tabs or seal cards in accordance  
 234 with § 18.2-340.16, provided (a) such sales are conducted by no more than two on-duty employees, (b)  
 235 such employees receive no compensation for or based on the sale of the pull tabs or seal cards, and (c)  
 236 such sales are conducted in the private social quarters of the organization.

237 6. 5. No person shall receive any remuneration for participating in the management, operation or  
 238 conduct of any charitable game, except that:

239 a. Persons employed by organizations composed of or for deaf or blind persons may receive

240 remuneration not to exceed \$30 per event for providing clerical assistance in the management and  
241 operation but not the conduct of charitable games only for such organizations;

242 b. Persons under the age of 19 who sell raffle tickets for a qualified organization to raise funds for  
243 youth activities in which they participate may receive nonmonetary incentive awards or prizes from the  
244 organization;

245 c. Remuneration may be paid to off-duty law-enforcement officers from the jurisdiction in which  
246 such bingo games are played for providing uniformed security for such bingo games even if such officer  
247 is a member of the sponsoring organization, provided the remuneration paid to such member is in  
248 accordance with off-duty law-enforcement personnel work policies approved by the local  
249 law-enforcement official and further provided that such member is not otherwise engaged in the  
250 management, operation or conduct of the bingo games of that organization, or to private security  
251 services businesses licensed pursuant to § 9.1-139 providing uniformed security for such bingo games,  
252 provided that employees of such businesses shall not otherwise be involved in the management,  
253 operation, or conduct of the bingo games of that organization;

254 d. A member of a qualified organization lawfully participating in the management, operation or  
255 conduct of a bingo game may be provided food and nonalcoholic beverages by such organization for  
256 on-premises consumption during the bingo game provided the food and beverages are provided in  
257 accordance with Board regulations;

258 e. Remuneration may be paid to bingo managers or callers who have a current registration certificate  
259 issued by the Department in accordance with § 18.2-340.34:1, or who are exempt from such registration  
260 requirement. Such remuneration shall not exceed \$100 per session; and

261 f. Volunteers of a qualified organization may be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary travel  
262 expenses, not to exceed \$50 per session.

263 ~~7.~~ 6. No landlord shall, at bingo games conducted on the landlord's premises, (i) participate in the  
264 conduct, management, or operation of any bingo games; (ii) sell, lease or otherwise provide for  
265 consideration any bingo supplies, including, but not limited to, bingo cards, instant bingo cards, or other  
266 game pieces; or (iii) require as a condition of the lease or by contract that a particular manufacturer,  
267 distributor or supplier of bingo supplies or equipment be used by the organization.

268 The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any qualified organization conducting bingo  
269 games on its own behalf at premises owned by it.

270 ~~8.~~ 7. No qualified organization shall enter into any contract with or otherwise employ or compensate  
271 any member of the organization on account of the sale of bingo supplies or equipment.

272 ~~9.~~ 8. No organization shall award any bingo prize money or any merchandise valued in excess of the  
273 following amounts:

274 a. No bingo door prize shall exceed \$50 for a single door prize or \$250 in cumulative door prizes in  
275 any one session;

276 b. No regular bingo or special bingo game prize shall exceed \$100;

277 c. No instant bingo, pull tab, or seal card prize for a single card shall exceed \$1,000;

278 d. Except as provided in *this* subdivision ~~9~~ 8, no bingo jackpot of any nature whatsoever shall  
279 exceed \$1,000, nor shall the total amount of bingo jackpot prizes awarded in any one session exceed  
280 \$1,000. Proceeds from the sale of bingo cards and the sheets used for bingo jackpot games shall be  
281 accounted for separately from the bingo cards or sheets used for any other bingo games; and

282 e. No single network bingo prize shall exceed \$25,000. Proceeds from the sale of network bingo  
283 cards shall be accounted for separately from bingo cards and sheets used for any other bingo game.

284 ~~10.~~ 9. The provisions of subdivision ~~9~~ 8 shall not apply to:

285 Any progressive bingo game, in which (a) a regular or special prize, not to exceed \$100, is awarded  
286 on the basis of predetermined numbers or patterns selected at random and (b) a progressive prize, not to  
287 exceed \$500 for the initial progressive prize and \$5,000 for the maximum progressive prize, is awarded  
288 if the predetermined numbers or patterns are covered when a certain number of numbers is called,  
289 provided (i) there are no more than six such games per session per organization, (ii) the amount of  
290 increase of the progressive prize per session is no more than \$100, (iii) the bingo cards or sheets used in  
291 such games are sold separately from the bingo cards or sheets used for any other bingo games, (iv) the  
292 organization separately accounts for the proceeds from such sale, and (v) such games are otherwise  
293 operated in accordance with the Department's rules of play.

294 ~~11.~~ 10. No organization shall award any raffle prize valued at more than \$100,000.

295 The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to a raffle conducted no more than three times per  
296 calendar year by a qualified organization qualified as a tax-exempt organization pursuant to § 501(c) of  
297 the Internal Revenue Code for a prize consisting of a lot improved by a residential dwelling where 100  
298 percent of the moneys received from such a raffle, less deductions for the fair market value for the cost  
299 of acquisition of the land and materials, are donated to lawful religious, charitable, community, or  
300 educational organizations specifically chartered or organized under the laws of the Commonwealth and

301 qualified as a § 501(c) tax-exempt organization. No more than one such raffle shall be conducted in any  
302 one geographical region of the Commonwealth.

303 ~~12.~~ 11. No qualified organization composed of or for deaf or blind persons which employs a person  
304 not a member to provide clerical assistance in the management and operation but not the conduct of any  
305 charitable games shall conduct such games unless it has in force fidelity insurance, as defined in  
306 § 38.2-120, written by an insurer licensed to do business in the Commonwealth.

307 ~~13.~~ 12. No person shall participate in the management or operation of any charitable game if he has  
308 ever been convicted of any felony or if he has been convicted of any misdemeanor involving fraud,  
309 theft, or financial crimes within the preceding five years. No person shall participate in the conduct of  
310 any charitable game if, within the preceding 10 years, he has been convicted of any felony or if, within  
311 the preceding five years he has been convicted of any misdemeanor involving fraud, theft, or financial  
312 crimes. In addition, no person shall participate in the management, operation or conduct of any  
313 charitable game if that person, within the preceding five years, has participated in the management,  
314 operation, or conduct of any charitable game which was found by the Department or a court of  
315 competent jurisdiction to have been operated in violation of state law, local ordinance or Board  
316 regulation.

317 ~~14.~~ 13. Qualified organizations jointly conducting bingo games pursuant to § 18.2-340.29 shall not  
318 circumvent any restrictions and prohibitions which would otherwise apply if a single organization were  
319 conducting such games. These restrictions and prohibitions shall include, but not be limited to, the  
320 frequency with which bingo games may be held, the value of merchandise or money awarded as prizes,  
321 or any other practice prohibited under this section.

322 ~~15.~~ 14. A qualified organization shall not purchase any charitable gaming supplies for use in the  
323 Commonwealth from any person who is not currently registered with the Department as a supplier  
324 pursuant to § 18.2-340.34.

325 ~~16.~~ 15. Unless otherwise permitted in this article, no part of an organization's charitable gaming gross  
326 receipts shall be used for an organization's social or recreational activities.

327 **2. That § 18.2-340.27:1 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.**