
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 215

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. BRUNNER, HASKELL AND MOEHLMANN,
FEBRUARY 9, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, FEBRUARY 9, 1977

AN ACT

1 Relating to the lawful conduct of bingo prescribing penalties;
2 and making a repeal.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Bingo Law."

7 Section 2. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this act, shall
9 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
10 meanings given to them in this section:

11 "Association." A volunteer fire company, ambulance
12 association or a religious, charitable, fraternal, veterans,
13 civic or other association organized as a nonprofit
14 organization.

15 "Bingo." A game in which each player has a card or board
16 containing five horizontal rows all but the central one
17 containing five figures. The central row has four figures with
18 the word "free" marked in the center thereof. Any preannounced

1 combination of spaces when completed by a player constitutes
2 bingo. In the absence of a preannouncement of a combination of
3 spaces, any combination of five in a row whether horizontal or
4 vertical when completed by a player constitutes bingo when its
5 four members are announced and covered. A wheel or other
6 mechanical device may be used by any person conducting the game
7 of bingo, and any such person may award to any player or players
8 first completing any combination constituting bingo a prize so
9 long as such prize awarded shall not exceed a value of \$100 for
10 any one such game of bingo except for jackpot games which shall
11 not exceed \$500 for one such game of bingo.

12 "Charitable purpose." Benevolent or philanthropic purpose.

13 "Civil purpose." Community purpose.

14 Section 2. Associations permitted to conduct bingo.

15 Any association, for a charitable or civic purpose, when
16 licensed pursuant to this act, may conduct the game of bingo as
17 herein defined.

18 Section 3. Licenses.

19 (a) In every county, the county treasurer shall license,
20 upon application, any association to conduct the game of bingo
21 at one location in the county. The license fee to be charged to
22 each nonprofit association shall be \$10 per annum. The license
23 fee to be charged to each agricultural association or county
24 fair shall be \$100 per annum. The fees collected pursuant to
25 this section shall be paid by the county treasurer into the
26 general fund of the county and used for county purposes.

27 (b) Licenses issued pursuant to this section shall be
28 publicly displayed at games conducted by licensees. Licensees
29 shall not be required to keep records connected with bingo
30 games.

1 Section 4. Nonissuance and revocation of licenses.

2 The county treasurer shall not issue a license to and shall
3 revoke the license of any association whenever he finds that:

4 (1) Compensation, salary or fee are paid to anyone for
5 setting up or conducting the games of bingo except
6 agricultural associations or county fairs licensed under this
7 act which shall be permitted to hire a firm or individual to
8 promote, set-up and conduct bingo.

9 (2) Any of the funds derived from the operation of the
10 game of bingo are used for any purpose other than for
11 charitable, civic or religious work or community fire
12 prevention and protection or purposes not necessary or
13 incidental to the lawful operation of the association.

14 (3) Any person under the age of 18 is playing bingo as
15 herein defined.

16 (4) The facility in which any game of bingo is played
17 does not have adequate means of ingress and egress or does
18 not have adequate sanitary facilities available in the area.

19 Section 5. Penalty.

20 Any association violating the provisions of this act shall be
21 guilty of a summary offense, and upon conviction thereof shall
22 be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$500 and shall forfeit
23 any license issued to him and shall be ineligible for a license
24 renewal for one year thereafter.

25 Section 6. Repeal.

26 The provisions of Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the
27 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are repealed to the extent
28 that they are inconsistent with the lawful conduct of bingo as
29 herein authorized.

30 Section 7. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect immediately.