

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 411

PRINTER NO. 1014

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

March 20, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Klunk

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 411 amends the Bingo Law (Act 67 of 1981) to increase bingo prize limits, allow the daily operation of bingo, permit advertisement of prize amounts and make other changes to the Bingo Law.

The legislation amends Section 3 (Definitions) of the Bingo Law by adding new definitions for "consolidated entity", "consolidated volunteer fire company" or "bona fide consolidated volunteer fire company", and "predraw bingo". The existing definitions of "association", "bingo" and "bona fide member" are amended to incorporate the newly defined terms. The amended definition of "bona fide member" eliminates the existing requirement that a bona fide member be a member of the association for at least one year.

The added definition of "predraw bingo" allows a licensed association to offer a variation of bingo whereby 24 or more random numbers are drawn prior to the beginning of a bingo game. Players may purchase concealed face cards to play the predraw bingo game after the random numbers are generated and called.

House Bill 411 permits a consolidated volunteer fire company to receive a bingo license immediately if at least one of the volunteer fire companies held a bingo license prior to the merger. A consolidated volunteer fire company may conduct bingo at two locations within the county. Also, the legislation removes an existing provision that applies only in Allegheny County, which requires a licensed association to conduct bingo only in the municipality in which the association is headquartered.

House Bill 411 allows a licensed association to advertise bingo prizes and their dollar value, and it increases bingo prize limits as follows:

- A single bingo game is increased from \$250 to \$500.
- A jackpot game is increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000.
- The maximum awarded prizes per day is increased from \$4,000 to \$8,000.

The legislation removes an existing provision in the Bingo Law that limits the operation of bingo to two days per week by any single licensed association.

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FISCAL NOTE

The act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or local funds.

The Bingo Law authorizes county treasurers to issue licenses to associations to allow the associations to conduct bingo in order to raise funds for charitable purposes. In most instances, the license fee charged to each association conducting bingo is \$100 per year. House Bill 411 makes changes to the Bingo Law that may make it more appealing for additional associations to conduct bingo, which could result in additional licenses being issued. However, it is presumed that the existing \$100 license fee is sufficient to cover any additional costs that may be incurred by the licensing authority.