

AN ACT

To amend Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to bingo, so as to specify that lots shall be chosen by a natural person; to remove the daily permissible prize limitation while preserving the weekly permissible prize limitation; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to bingo, is amended by revising paragraph (1) of Code Section 16-12-51, relating to definitions, as follows:

"(1) 'Bingo game' or 'nonprofit bingo game' means a game of chance played on cards with numbered squares in which counters or indicators are placed on numbers chosen by lot and won by covering a previously specified number or order of numbered squares. A bingo game may be played manually or with an electronic or computer device that stores the numbers from a player's card or cards, tracks the numbers chosen by lot when such numbers are entered by the player, and notifies the player of a winning combination; provided, however, that the numbers chosen by lot shall be chosen by a natural person who is physically located on the premises or property described in Code Section 16-12-57 on which the game is operated. Such words, terms, or phrases, as used in this paragraph, shall be strictly construed to include only the series of acts generally defined as bingo and shall exclude all other activity."

SECTION 2.

Said part is further amended by revising subsection (f) of Code Section 16-12-60, relating to rules and regulations relative to bingo, as follows:

"(f) It shall be unlawful to award prizes in excess of \$3,000.00 in cash or gifts of equivalent value during any calendar week. It shall be unlawful to exceed such limitation at any combination of locations operated by a single licensee or such licensee's agents or employees. It shall be unlawful for two or more licensees to pyramid the valuation of prizes in such manner as to exceed the limitation contained in this Code section. The term 'equivalent value' shall mean the fair market value of the gift on the date the gift is given as the prize in a bingo game."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.