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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - GAMBLING AND LOTTERIES - BINGO

Introduced By: Senators Picard, and Cote

Date Introduced: March 10, 2010

Referred To: Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-19-32 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-19 entitled "Gambling
2 and Lotteries" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-19-32. Operation of bingo games.** -- Any charitable organization approved by the
4 department may promote, carry on, or conduct the game of bingo provided as follows:

5 (1) The game is conducted by members of the organization; provided, however, that the
6 members shall be permitted to employ one or more persons to carry on or conduct the game who
7 are not members of the organization; and provided, further, that any person who is a member or a
8 worker of the organization which promotes, carries on or conducts the game shall be permitted to
9 be a member or worker of another organization that promotes, carries on or conducts the game of
10 bingo.

11 (2) No person in the actual or constructive management and control of the game receives
12 any compensation for services connected to the game or receives any compensation from the
13 gross receipts of the game.

14 (3) The entire net receipts of the game are applied solely to the charitable purposes of the
15 organization. All expenses deducted from gross receipts must be reasonable and related to the
16 actual conduct of the game.

17 (4) The total amount of all expenses deducted from the gross receipts shall not exceed
18 twenty-five percent (25%) of the total annual gross receipts raised through bingo, not including
19 monies raised through the sale of pull-tab lottery tickets.

1 (5) The total prizes, in the form of cash and/or retail merchandise including prizes from
2 winner-take-all games, which are offered or awarded do not exceed the sum of seven thousand
3 five hundred dollars (\$7,500) in any one night.

4 (6) The game is carried on or conducted not more than twice in any period of one
5 calendar week under a license issued pursuant to the provisions of section 11-19-37.

6 (7) That there be only one sponsor for each date of the proposed game and that the game
7 shall be conducted only on the premises affiliated with the organization in conformance with
8 rules and regulations.

9 (8) That any building in which a game is played or conducted shall be used no more than
10 three (3) times in any calendar week for conducting a game, and that no annex or subdivision of
11 any building shall be permitted to be used to conduct a game in an attempt to increase the number
12 of times the building may be used for bingo purposes.

13 (9) The organization shall keep and maintain financial records relating to the game in
14 accordance with rules and regulations and have the records available for inspection upon demand.

15 (10) Payment of a prize in excess of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) shall be made by
16 check.

17 (11) "Winner-take-all" games are prohibited, with the exception that each organization
18 shall be permitted to play one optional "winner-take-all" game per night.

19 (12) No person under the age of eighteen (18) years shall be permitted to play the game.

20 (13) Notwithstanding any regulation to the contrary, any approved charitable
21 organization conducting a lawful game of bingo pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be
22 permitted to advertise their game in print media. As used in this chapter, "advertise" means an
23 advertisement or announcement in print media containing the date, time, and place of the game,
24 the charitable organization sponsoring and/or benefiting from the game, whether the game shall
25 provide for a bonus building/prize pool, and the total amount of the prize pool as set forth in
26 subdivision (14) of this section.

27 (14) The game may provide for a bonus building/prize pool which would start at five
28 hundred dollars (\$500) and increase at one hundred dollar (\$100) increments each week until it
29 reaches a maximum amount of one thousand dollars (\$1000).

30 (15) Game workers may be compensated with a non-monetary gift, valued at not more
31 than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per quarter and/or a total of one hundred dollars (\$100) per
32 year. Beverages and food provided without charge to volunteer workers at the game of bingo
33 shall not be considered to be compensation for purposes of the subsection.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would allow charitable organization operators of bingo games to employ non-
2 members of the organization to help conduct the bingo. It would allow members or workers of the
3 bingo operating charities to work for more than one charity or organization.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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