

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

By Griffey

A RESOLUTION to propose an amendment to Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Tennessee, to allow for bingo events to benefit certain organizations.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that a majority of all the members of each house concurring, as shown by the yeas and nays entered on their journals, that it is proposed that Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee be amended by adding the following language at the end of the section:

This Section does not prohibit bingo games, as defined below, when conducted by an authorized 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) organization, as defined by the 2000 United States Tax Code, to meet charitable, not for profit, or community service purposes. The Secretary of State's office shall have the sole and exclusive authority to investigate, regulate, prohibit, and impose reasonable fines against any authorized person, persons, entities, or 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) organization conducting bingo games inconsistent with a charitable, not for profit, or community service purpose. The Courts shall not have jurisdiction over any cause, matter, or issue related to the Secretary of State's authority or decisions. Legislation in furtherance of this provision shall be by a majority vote of all members elected to each house of the General Assembly, and must:

- (a) Prohibit the use of third-party vendors in conducting bingo games;
- (b) Prohibit the use of electronic bingo games and all other casino-type games;

(c) Limit the number and duration of bingo games by a single organization to no more than once per week, four times per month, for no more than four hours at one time;

(d) Prohibit minors from playing bingo games;

(e) Require the bingo games to be played completely on-site, in-person, and conducted by non-paid volunteer members of the organization; and

(f) Require all of the proceeds to be used by the organization for the charitable purposes of the organization.

Revenues necessary for the Secretary of State to exercise the authority herein shall be derived from the operations of bingo games authorized herein unless otherwise provided for by the General Assembly. Bingo gaming not authorized by this provision and by the Secretary of State is prohibited.

"Bingo" means a specific game of chance in which participants use a manual playing surface divided into horizontal and vertical spaces, each of which is designated by a letter and a number, and prizes are awarded on the basis of the letters and numbers on the playing surface conforming to a predetermined and preannounced configuration of letters and numbers selected at random.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the foregoing amendment be referred to the One Hundred Thirteenth General Assembly and that this resolution proposing such amendment be published in compliance with Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to deliver copies of this resolution to the Secretary of State.