

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0062

Regulation of bingo.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and
Cultural Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to crimes and offenses; clarifying and
2 amending the definition of bingo as an activity excluded
3 from the definition of gambling; specifying entities
4 authorized to conduct bingo games; specifying conditions;
5 authorizing cities, towns and counties to prohibit or
6 restrict bingo activities; and providing for an effective
7 date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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11 **Section 1.** W.S. 6-7-105 is created to read:

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13 **6-7-105. Bingo permitted for restricted purposes;**
14 **conditions.**

15

1 (a) The game of bingo as defined in W.S.
2 6-7-101(a)(xi) shall not be construed as gambling under
3 this article if all of the following are met:

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5 (i) The bingo game is conducted by:

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7 (A) A bona fide congressionally chartered
8 veterans' organization or its duly organized auxiliary;

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10 (B) A religious, charitable, educational or
11 fraternal organization;

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13 (C) A local civic or service club; or

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15 (D) A volunteer fire department.

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17 (ii) The entity conducting the bingo game shall
18 have been in operation for at least three (3) years before
19 conducting any bingo game;

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21 (iii) The entity conducts social service
22 activities other than bingo operations in this state;

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1 (iv) Other than the money or other prizes
2 awarded to players winning bingo, the monies paid to play
3 bingo do not inure to the benefit of any individual.
4 Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit
5 the entity conducting the bingo operation from donating
6 funds to a single individual for benevolent purposes;
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8 (v) No corporation or other business entity
9 other than the entities specified in paragraph (i) of this
10 subsection conducts the bingo game or assists therein;
11

12 (vi) The entities authorized under paragraph (i)
13 of this subsection, before conducting a bingo game, provide
14 thirty (30) days written notice of the time and place
15 thereof to the governing body of the city or town in which
16 it intends to conduct the bingo game, and the governing
17 body does not pass a resolution prohibiting the conduct of
18 the game. If the game is conducted in an unincorporated
19 area of a county, notice under this paragraph shall be
20 provided to the board of county commissioners and that
21 board shall have authority to pass a resolution prohibiting
22 the conduct of the game. If no such resolution is passed
23 by the city, town or county having jurisdiction, and
24 provided to the entity conducting the game at least ten

1 (10) days before the game is to be conducted, the game may
2 be conducted as specified in the notice. A governing body
3 may subsequently prohibit the conduct of a game by passing
4 a resolution and providing notice to the entity at least
5 ten (10) days before the game is to be conducted;

6

7 (vii) No entity authorized under paragraph (i)
8 of this subsection to conduct a bingo game shall enter into
9 any lease or agreement with any other person to provide
10 equipment or services associated with the conduct of a
11 bingo game. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be
12 construed to prohibit the authorized entity from purchasing
13 equipment to conduct the bingo game;

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15 (viii) Any entity conducting bingo in this state
16 shall report to the pari-mutual commission and the division
17 of criminal investigation annually. All income,
18 compensation, winnings, and money used to support a
19 benevolent purpose shall be reported separately. The
20 report shall be filed not later than March 1, for the
21 preceding year. Records related to any bingo operation in
22 this state shall be made available upon request of the
23 division of criminal investigation; and

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1 (ix) At least fifty percent (50%) of all monies
2 paid to the entity conducting the bingo game shall be
3 redeemed as winnings over the reporting period specified in
4 paragraph (viii) of this subsection. Not less than
5 seventy-five percent (75%) of all monies paid to the entity
6 conducting the bingo game and not returned to players as
7 winnings shall be used to support a benevolent purpose.
8 For purposes of this paragraph "benevolent purpose" means
9 for the relief of poverty, medical condition or condition
10 of public concern or for the benefit of an educational or
11 youth activity.

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13 **Section 2.** W.S. 6-7-101(a)(iii)(D), (E), (G), by
14 creating a new subdivision (H) and by creating a new
15 paragraph (xi), 15-1-103(a)(xvi)(A) and 18-2-101(a) by
16 creating a new paragraph (viii) are amended to read:

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18 **6-7-101. Definitions.**

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20 (a) As used in this article:

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22 (iii) "Gambling" means risking any property for
23 gain contingent in whole or in part upon lot, chance, the
24 operation of a gambling device or the happening or outcome

1 of an event, including a sporting event, over which the
2 person taking a risk has no control, but does not include:

3

4 (D) Raffles ~~or bingo~~ conducted, or pull
5 tabs sold, by charitable or nonprofit organizations where
6 the tickets for the raffle ~~or bingo~~ are sold only in this
7 state and the pull tabs are sold only on the premises owned
8 or occupied by the charitable or nonprofit organization;

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10 (E) Any game, wager or transaction which is
11 incidental to a bona fide social relationship, is
12 participated in by natural persons only, and in which no
13 person is participating, directly or indirectly, in
14 professional gambling;~~or~~

15

16 (G) Display or private use of antique
17 gambling devices in the owner's residence;~~or~~ or

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19 (H) Bingo conducted in accordance with W.S.
20 6-7-105.

21

22 (xi) "Bingo" means a game meeting the
23 specifications of this paragraph. Each player is supplied
24 a paper or cardboard card or board containing five (5)

1 adjoining horizontal and vertical rows with five (5) spaces
2 in each row, each containing a number or symbol therein,
3 except for the central row with four (4) spaces, each
4 containing a number or symbol therein and the word "free"
5 marked in the center space thereof. Upon announcement by
6 the person physically present conducting the game of any
7 randomly generated number or symbol appearing on the
8 player's card or board, the space containing the symbol or
9 number is covered by the player. When the player shall
10 have covered all five (5) spaces in any horizontal or
11 vertical row, or shall have covered four (4) spaces and the
12 "free" space in a five (5) space diagonal, horizontal or
13 vertical row, or shall have covered the required
14 combination of spaces in some other preannounced pattern or
15 arrangement, such combination of spaces covered shall
16 constitute "bingo". The player or players first verified
17 as covering the spaces constituting "bingo" shall be
18 awarded money, merchandise or some other consideration by
19 the person conducting the game. Each bingo game shall
20 continue until at least one (1) player's card or board has
21 reached the pattern or arrangement which is verified as
22 "bingo". All players during the course of a game shall
23 compete for the same prizes utilizing different
24 arrangements of the same set of numbers or symbols.

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15-1-103. General powers of governing bodies.

(a) The governing bodies of all cities and towns may:

(xvi) Suppress or prohibit:

(A) All gambling games or devices except antique gambling devices as defined in W.S. 6-7-101(a)(x) and authorize the destruction thereof. "Bingo" as defined by W.S. 6-7-101(a)(xi) may be prohibited or restricted by the governing body in accordance with W.S. 6-7-105(a)(vi);

18-2-101. General powers.

(a) Each organized county in the state is a body corporate and politic. The powers of the county shall be exercised by a board of county commissioners which may:

(viii) Prohibit or restrict "bingo" as defined by W.S. 6-7-101(a)(xi) in accordance with W.S. 6-7-105(a)(vi) .

