

HCS SB 940 -- BINGO

This bill changes the laws regarding bingo. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Defines "bingo card monitoring device" as a technology aid which allows a bingo player to enter bingo numbers as they are announced that marks or otherwise conceals those numbers which are electronically stored in and displayed on the device and does not include any device into which currency, coins, tokens, or electronic funds transfer may be inserted or dispensed or is capable of communicating with any other bingo card monitoring device or form of electronic device or computer. A bingo game is allowed to be conducted by a device if it has been approved by the Missouri Gaming Commission;
- (2) Allows an organization with an abbreviated bingo license to conduct bingo games up to 15 times annually at which only pull-tab cards may be used. Currently, the limit is up to four times annually;
- (3) Requires all organizations licensed to conduct bingo games to pay a \$50 annual license fee. Currently, certain licensed organizations are required to pay a \$10 annual license fee;
- (4) Authorizes the commission to establish by regulation the maximum daily prize amount for nonprogressive bingo games. Currently, the aggregate retail value, except for pull-tab cards and progressive bingo games, in a single day of bingo cannot exceed \$3,600 and the prize for any one game, other than a progressive bingo game, cannot exceed \$500; and no more than one \$500 prize, other than prizes in progressive bingo games, can be awarded on any single day of bingo;
- (5) Repeals the provision which specifies that the price for a single special game bingo card cannot exceed 50 cents;
- (6) Repeals the provision which specifies that a licensee cannot require a player to purchase a minimum number of cards in order to participate in a bingo game and specifies that a licensee cannot require a player to purchase more than a standard pack of bingo cards in order to participate;
- (7) Allows a licensee to conduct bingo games twice a week instead of once a week;
- (8) Increases the amount which may be used for advertising from up to 2% to up to 10% of the total amount expended from bingo receipts;

(9) Repeals the provision which prohibits a licensee from referencing the aggregate value of bingo prizes in an advertisement which exceeds the amount authorized by law to be paid out in a single bingo occasion;

(10) Prohibits a bingo game from being conducted between 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Currently, a game cannot be conducted between midnight and 10:00 a.m.;

(11) Requires a licensee who conducts bingo games on more than three occasions in any calendar year to make quarterly reports to the commission. Currently, certain licensees are required to report annually;

(12) Changes the record retention requirement of a bingo licensee from three to two years except for those records stipulated for one-year retention by regulation;

(13) Requires the applicant for a supplier's or manufacturer's license to be responsible for the total cost of a criminal history investigation incurred by the commission; and

(14) Increases the one-time application fee for a manufacturer's license from an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to an amount not to exceed \$5,000 and the renewal fee from an amount not to exceed \$500 to an amount not to exceed \$1,000.