



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Bethany Boyd

H.B. 295

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Ruhl, Buchy, Stebelton, Blair, Fende, Young, Derickson, Grossman

BILL SUMMARY

- Eliminates the prohibition forbidding a county or independent agricultural society from allowing a charitable organization to conduct games of chance or bingo at fairgrounds during, for one week before, or for three days after, a fair.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Games of chance or bingo at fairgrounds

The bill allows a county or independent agricultural society to permit a charitable organization to conduct "games of chance" or "bingo" in accordance with the state Gambling Law¹ on the fairground of any county at any time. Existing law prohibits a county or independent agricultural society from allowing a charitable organization to conduct games of chance or bingo on the fairground of any county during a fair, or for one week before or three days after a fair.² The bill eliminates these time restrictions.

In general, a "charitable organization," as defined by the Gambling Law, is a tax exempt religious, educational, veteran's, fraternal, sporting, service, nonprofit medical, volunteer rescue service, volunteer firefighter's, senior citizen's, historic railroad educational, youth athletic, amateur athletic, or youth athletic park organization that holds a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service stating that the organization is exempt from federal income taxation.³

¹ R.C. Chapter 2915.

² R.C. 1711.09.

³ R.C. 2915.01(H), not in the bill.

Definitions of "game of chance" and "bingo" under the Gambling Law

A "game of chance" is poker, craps, roulette, or another game in which a player gives anything of value in the hope of gain, the outcome of which is determined largely by chance, excluding bingo.⁴

Summarized in its simplest form, "bingo" is either (1) a game that uses bingo cards or sheets containing 25 spaces arranged in five horizontal and five vertical rows with a central free space, which the participants cover when a space corresponds to combinations of letters and numbers announced by a bingo game operator, or (2) instant bingo, punch boards, and raffles.⁵ "Instant bingo" uses folded or banded tickets or paper cards with perforated break-open tabs, a face of which is covered or otherwise hidden from view to conceal one of a set of numbers, letters, or symbols, some of which have been designated in advance as prize winners, and includes seal cards that use instant bingo tickets in conjunction with a board or placard that contains one or more seals that, when removed or opened, reveal pre-designated winning numbers, letters, or symbols.⁶ "Punch boards" are boards containing a number of holes or receptacles of uniform size in which are placed, mechanically and randomly, serially numbered slips of paper that may be punched or drawn from the hole or receptacle when used in conjunction with instant bingo.⁷ And a "raffle" is a form of bingo in which one or more prizes are won by one or more persons who have purchased a raffle ticket, with the winners determined by drawing a ticket stub or other detachable section from a receptacle containing ticket stubs or detachable sections corresponding to all tickets sold for the raffle; but a "raffle" does not include the drawing of a ticket stub or other detachable section of a ticket purchased to attend a professional sporting event if the ticket stub or detachable section is used to select the winner of a free prize given away at the event, and the cost of the ticket is the same as the cost of a ticket to the professional sporting event on days when no free prize is given away.⁸

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced
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07-12-11

⁴ R.C. 2915.01(D), not in the bill.

⁵ R.C. 2915.01(S), not in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 2915.01(FF) and (GG), not in the bill.

⁷ R.C. 2915.01(II), not in the bill.

⁸ R.C. 2915.01(HH), not in the bill.

