

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 988

Short Title: Revise Law on Instant Bingo. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Hawkins.

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 14, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REVISE THE LAWS GOVERNING INSTANT BINGO GAMES, TO REVISE  
3 THE METHOD BY WHICH FUNDS RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH A BINGO  
4 GAME MAY BE DISBURSED, AND TO MAKE VARIOUS TECHNICAL  
5 CORRECTIONS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 14-309.6 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 14-309.6. Definitions.**

9 For purposes of this Part, the ~~term:~~following definitions apply:

10 (1) ~~"Exempt organization" means an~~Exempt organization. – An organization that  
11 has been in continuous existence in the county of operation of the bingo game  
12 for at least one year and that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3),  
13 501(c)(4), 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), 501(c)(19), or 501(d) of the Internal  
14 Revenue Code and is exempt under similar provisions of the General Statutes  
15 as a bona fide nonprofit charitable, civic, religious, fraternal, patriotic or  
16 veterans' organization or as a nonprofit volunteer fire department, or as a  
17 nonprofit volunteer rescue squad or a bona fide homeowners' or property  
18 owners' association. (If the organization has local branches or chapters, the  
19 term "exempt organization" means the local branch or chapter operating the  
20 bingo ~~game~~);game).

21 (2) ~~"Bingo game" means a~~Bingo game. – A specific game of chance played with  
22 individual cards having numbered squares ranging from one to 75, in which  
23 prizes are awarded on the basis of designated numbers on such cards  
24 conforming to a predetermined pattern of ~~numbers (but shall not include~~  
25 ~~"instant bingo" which is a game of chance played by the selection of one or~~  
26 ~~more prepackaged cards, with winners determined by the appearance of a~~  
27 ~~preselected designation on the card);~~numbers. This term includes instant  
28 bingo.

29 (2a) Instant bingo. – A game of chance played by the selection of one or more  
30 predesignated paper or digital tickets, with winners determined by the  
31 appearance of a preselected designation on the ticket.

32 ...  
33 (4) ~~"Local law enforcement agency" means for~~Local law enforcement agency. –  
34 For any bingo game conducted outside the corporate limits of a municipality



1 or inside the corporate limits of a municipality having no municipal police  
2 ~~force~~;force, this term means either of the following:

3 a. The county police ~~force~~; orforce.

4 b. The county sheriff's office in a county with no county police  
5 ~~force~~;force.

6 (5) "~~Local law enforcement agency~~" means theLocal law enforcement agency. –  
7 The municipal police for any bingo game conducted within the corporate  
8 limits of a municipality having a police ~~force~~;force.

9 (6) "~~Beach bingo games~~" means bingoBeach bingo games. – Bingo games which  
10 have prizes of ten dollars (\$10.00) or less or merchandise that is not  
11 redeemable for cash and that has a value of ten dollars (\$10.00) or less;  
12 ~~and~~less. This term does not include instant bingo.

13 (7) "~~Licensed exempt organization~~" means anLicensed exempt organization. – An  
14 exempt organization which possesses a currently valid license.

15 (8) "~~Nonprofit organization~~" means anNonprofit organization. – An organization  
16 or association recognized by the Department of Revenue as tax exempt  
17 pursuant to G.S. 105-130.11(a), or any bona fide branch, chapter, or affiliate  
18 of that organization."

19 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 14-309.8 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 14-309.8. Limit on sessions.**

21 The number of sessions of bingo conducted or sponsored by an exempt organization shall be  
22 limited to two sessions per week and such sessions must not exceed a period of five hours each  
23 per session. No two sessions of bingo shall be held within a 48-hour period of time. No more  
24 than two sessions of bingo shall be operated or conducted in any one building, hall or structure  
25 during any one calendar week and if two sessions are held, they must be held by the same exempt  
26 organization. This section shall not apply to bingo games conducted (i) at a fair or other  
27 exhibition conducted pursuant to Article 45 of Chapter 106 of the General ~~Statutes~~.Statutes or  
28 (ii) by an organization exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), or 501(c)(19)  
29 of the Internal Revenue Code."

30 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 14-309.9(a) reads as rewritten:

31 "(a) ~~The~~Except as otherwise provided in this section, the maximum prize in cash or  
32 merchandise that may be offered or paid for any one game of bingo is five hundred dollars  
33 (\$500.00). The maximum aggregate amount of prizes, in ~~cash and/or~~cash, merchandise, or cash  
34 and merchandise, that may be offered or paid at any one session of bingo is one thousand five  
35 hundred dollars (\$1,500). Provided, however, that if an exempt organization holds only one  
36 session of bingo during a calendar week, the maximum aggregate amount of prizes, in ~~cash~~  
37 ~~and/or~~cash, merchandise, or cash and merchandise, that may be offered or paid at any one session  
38 is two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500). The maximum prize in cash or merchandise that  
39 may be offered or paid for any one game of instant bingo is six hundred dollars (\$600.00)."

40 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 14-309.10 reads as rewritten:

41 **"§ 14-309.10. Operation of bingo.**

42 (a) The operation of bingo games shall be the direct responsibility of, and controlled by,  
43 a special committee selected by the governing body of the exempt organization in the manner  
44 provided by the rules of the exempt organization.

45 (b) Only organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), or  
46 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code may conduct instant bingo.

47 (c) Paper instant bingo tickets shall comply with the standards for instant bingo tickets  
48 or cards established by the North American Gaming Regulators Association, as amended from  
49 time to time.

1 (d) Prior to use, electronic instant bingo systems shall be tested by an independent gaming  
2 test laboratory and certified as compliant with the GLI-14 standard produced by Gaming  
3 Laboratories International, LLC."

4 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 14-309.11 reads as rewritten:

5 **"§ 14-309.11. Accounting and use of proceeds.**

6 (a) All funds received in connection with a bingo game shall be placed in a separate bank  
7 account. No funds may be disbursed from this account except the exempt organization may  
8 expend proceeds for prizes, advertising, utilities, and the purchase of supplies and equipment  
9 used in conducting the raffle and in playing bingo, taxes and license fees related to bingo  
10 and bingo, the payment of compensation as authorized by G.S. 14-309.7(e)14-309.7(c), and for  
11 the purposes set forth below for the remaining proceeds. Such payments shall be made by  
12 consecutively numbered checks, checks or by electronic funds transfer. Any proceeds available  
13 in the account after payment of the above expenses shall inure to the exempt organization to be  
14 used for religious, charitable, civic, scientific, testing, public safety, literary, or educational  
15 purposes or for purchasing, constructing, maintaining, operating or using equipment or land or a  
16 building or improvements thereto owned by and for the exempt organization and used for civic  
17 purposes or made available by the exempt organization for use by the general public from time  
18 to time, or to foster amateur sports competition, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or  
19 animals, provided that no proceeds shall be used or expended for social functions for the members  
20 of the exempt organization.

21 (b) An audit of the account required by subsection (a) of this section shall be prepared  
22 annually for the period of January 1 through December 31 or otherwise as directed by the Alcohol  
23 Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Public Safety and shall be filed with the  
24 Division and the local law-enforcement agency at a time directed by the Division. The audit shall  
25 be prepared on a form approved by the Division and shall include all of the following  
26 information:

- 27 (1) The number of bingo games conducted or sponsored by the exempt  
28 organization;organization.
- 29 (2) The location and date at which each bingo game was conducted and the prize  
30 awarded;awarded.
- 31 (3) The gross receipts of each bingo game;game.
- 32 (4) The cost or amount of any prize given at each bingo game;game.
- 33 (5) The amount paid in prizes at each session;session.
- 34 (6) The net return to the exempt organization; andorganization.
- 35 (7) The disbursements from the separate account and the purpose of those  
36 disbursements, including the date of each transaction and the name and  
37 address of each payee.

38 ...."

39 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025, and applies to bingo  
40 games conducted on or after that date.