



House of Representatives

File No. 701

General Assembly

February Session, 2008

(Reprint of File No. 528)

House Bill No. 5645

As Amended by House Amendment Schedule
"A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 21, 2008

**AN ACT CREATING AN EXEMPTION FROM PERMIT REQUIREMENTS
FOR PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION CONDUCTED BINGO.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Any parent teacher
2 association or organization may operate and conduct games of bingo,
3 as defined in section 7-169 of the 2008 supplement to the general
4 statutes, for the amusement and recreation of such association's or
5 organization's members and guests without a permit, as required by
6 said section, provided (1) such association or organization registers
7 annually with the Division of Special Revenue and pays an annual
8 registration fee of twenty dollars, (2) such association or organization
9 obtains an identification number from the division, (3) such association
10 or organization charges an admission fee of not more than one dollar,
11 (4) each individual prize of cash or merchandise offered does not
12 exceed twenty dollars in value, and (5) only active members of such
13 association or organization assist in the operation of the games of
14 bingo and assist without compensation. The executive director of the
15 Division of Special Revenue may revoke any such registration for

16 cause. Any registration fees collected in accordance with this
17 subsection shall be remitted to the state.

18 (b) Each such association or organization shall keep accurate records
19 of receipts and disbursements related to such games of bingo, and such
20 records shall be available for inspection by the executive director.

21 (c) Each such association or organization shall be exempt from the
22 requirements of sections 7-169 of the 2008 supplement to the general
23 statutes and 7-169a of the general statutes.

24 (d) The executive director of the Division of Special Revenue, in
25 consultation with the Gaming Policy Board, shall adopt regulations, in
26 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the
27 provisions of this section in order to prevent fraud and protect the
28 public.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Spec. Revenue, Div. of	GF - Revenue Impact	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill exempts Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) from the provisions on bingo governing other organizations. But they are still subject to Division of Special Revenue (DSR) oversight in that they (1) must register with DSR annually and pay a \$20 fee, (2) obtain a DSR identification number, (3) charge no more than \$ 1 for admission, (4) offer prizes valued at no more than \$20, and (5) allow only active members serving without compensation to operate the games.

The bill as amended will result in a minimal revenue impact to the General Fund from changes in the bingo registration fees structure for PTAs. The DSR will be able to process additional registrations within current budgetary resources.

House 'A' lowers the bingo registration fee for PTAs in the underlying bill from \$50 to \$20. This will preclude a revenue gain from bingo registration fees.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5645 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CREATING AN EXEMPTION FROM PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION CONDUCTED BINGO.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows parent teacher associations (PTA) or organizations (PTO) conducting bingo for the amusement and recreation of their members and guests to do so without the Division of Special Revenue (DSR) permit required by other qualified organizations conducting bingo. Existing permit fees range from \$5 per day for a special events permit to \$75 for an annual permit.

The bill exempts PTAs and PTOs from the provisions on bingo governing other organizations. But they are still subject to DSR oversight in that they must (1) register with DSR annually and pay a \$20 fee, (2) obtain a DSR identification number, (3) charge no more than \$1 for admission, (4) offer prizes valued at no more than \$20, and (5) allow only active members serving without compensation to operate the games. The organization must keep accurate records of game receipts and disbursements available for DSR inspection.

The DSR executive director (1) may revoke the registrations for cause, (2) must remit registration fees to the state, and (3) must adopt implementing regulations to prevent fraud and protect the public.

*House Amendment "A" reduces the annual registration fee from \$50 to \$20.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Bingo and Bingo Permits

Bingo may be conducted only in towns that have voted to approve such games. The sponsoring organization must get a DSR permit and, as a prerequisite, must register with the agency. It must have been organized for at least two years before applying for the permit. Qualified organizations are veterans', religious, civic, fraternal, educational, or charitable organizations; volunteer fire companies; and granges. Only the sponsoring organization's qualified members may promote and operate bingo. But DSR may allow qualified members of another registered organization to help.

An organization conducting bingo must have (1) a class A permit, which is an annual \$75 permit that allows games one day each week; (2) a class B permit, which is a special events permit that allows games over a 10-day period and costs \$5 per day; or (3) a class C permit, which is an annual \$50 permit that allows games one day per month. All three permits limit the number of games in any day to a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 40.

An organization operating or conducting bingo must file a return with DSR and pay the state a fee of 5% of the gross receipts, less the prizes.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/04/2008)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/14/2008)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 50 Nay 0 (03/27/2008)