



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

***Raised Bill No. 7137***

LCO No. 4320



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:  
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CHARITABLE BINGO GAMES, BAZAARS  
AND RAFFLES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-169 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

3 (a) [The term "bingo" is defined as the name of] For the purposes of  
4 this section and section 7-169a, as amended by this act, "bingo game"  
5 means a game in which each player receives a card containing several  
6 rows of numbers and, as numbers are drawn or otherwise obtained by  
7 chance and publicly announced, the player first having a specified  
8 number of announced numbers appearing on [his] the player's card in  
9 a continuous straight line or covering a previously designated  
10 arrangement of numbers on such card is declared the winner; [. The  
11 word] "person" or "applicant" [, as used in this section,] means the  
12 officer or representative of the sponsoring organization or the  
13 organization itself; [. The term] "session" means a series of games  
14 played in one day; [. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of  
15 Consumer Protection, who shall be responsible for the administration

16 and regulation of bingo in the state] and "municipal official" means the  
17 chief of police of the municipality, or if there is no police department,  
18 the chief executive officer of the municipality, where the bingo game is  
19 to be conducted or is conducted.

20 (b) Upon a written petition of five per cent or more of the electors of  
21 any municipality requesting the selectmen, common council or other  
22 governing body of such municipality to vote upon the question of  
23 permitting the playing of bingo within such municipality, such  
24 governing body shall vote upon such question and, if the vote is in the  
25 affirmative, [it] bingo games shall be permitted, subject to the  
26 restrictions herein set forth, and if the vote is in the negative, bingo  
27 games shall not be permitted to be played in such municipality. When  
28 the selectmen, common council or other governing body of any  
29 municipality have voted favorably upon the question of permitting the  
30 playing of bingo games within such municipality, the playing of [such  
31 game] bingo games shall be permitted in such municipality  
32 indefinitely thereafter, without further petition or action by such  
33 governing body, unless such governing body has forbidden the  
34 playing of [said game] bingo games upon a similar written petition of  
35 five per cent or more of the electors of such municipality, whereupon  
36 bingo games shall not be permitted to be played after such negative  
37 vote.

38 [(c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt, in  
39 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, such regulations as are  
40 necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this section and  
41 section 7-169a in order to prevent fraud and protect the public, which  
42 regulations shall have the effect of law.]

43 [(d)] (c) No bingo game or series of bingo games shall be promoted,  
44 operated or played unless the same is sponsored and conducted  
45 exclusively by a charitable, civic, educational, fraternal, veterans' or  
46 religious organization, volunteer fire department or grange. Any such  
47 organization or group shall have been organized for not less than two

48 years prior to its application for a bingo permit under the terms of this  
49 section. The promotion and operation of [said] a bingo game or bingo  
50 games shall be confined solely to the qualified members of the  
51 sponsoring organization, except that the [Commissioner of Consumer  
52 Protection] municipal official may permit any qualified member of a  
53 sponsoring organization who has registered with [said commissioner]  
54 the municipal official, on a form prepared by [him or her] the  
55 municipal official for such purpose, to assist in the operation of a bingo  
56 game sponsored by another organization. The [commissioner]  
57 municipal official may revoke such registration for cause.

58 [(e)] (d) Any eligible organization desiring to operate bingo games  
59 in any municipality in which the governing body has voted to permit  
60 the playing thereof shall apply to the [Commissioner of Consumer  
61 Protection] municipal official, which application shall contain a  
62 statement of the name and address of the applicant, the location of the  
63 place at which the bingo games are to be played and the seating  
64 capacity of such place, the date or dates for which a permit is sought,  
65 the class of permit sought and any other information which the  
66 [commissioner] municipal official reasonably requires for the  
67 protection of the public, and, upon payment of the fee provided for in  
68 this section, the [commissioner] municipal official is authorized to  
69 issue such permit, provided such eligible organization has been  
70 registered as provided in section 7-169a, as amended by this act.

71 [(f)] (e) Permits shall be known as "Class A" which shall be annual  
72 one-day-per-week permits and shall permit the conduct of not more  
73 than forty and not less than fifteen bingo games on such day, [and]  
74 "Class B" which shall permit not more than forty and not less than  
75 fifteen bingo games per day for a maximum of ten successive days,  
76 and "Class C" which shall be annual one-day-per-month permits and  
77 shall permit the conduct of not more than forty and not less than  
78 fifteen bingo games on such day. "Class A" permits shall allow the  
79 playing of bingo games no more than one day [weekly] per week. Not  
80 more than two "Class B" permits shall be issued to any one

81 organization within any twelve-month period. "Class C" permits shall  
82 allow the playing of bingo games no more than one day per month.

83 [(g)] (f) Permit fees shall be [remitted to the state] as follows: "Class  
84 A", seventy-five dollars; "Class B", five dollars per day; and "Class C",  
85 fifty dollars.

86 [(h)] (g) Each person who operates bingo games shall keep accurate  
87 records of receipts and disbursements, which shall be available for  
88 inspection by the [commissioner and the chief law enforcement official  
89 in the municipality in which such bingo games are operated. Any  
90 information acquired by the commissioner pursuant to this subsection  
91 shall be available to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and  
92 Public Protection upon request] municipal official.

93 [(i)] (h) Prizes offered for the winning of bingo games may consist of  
94 cash, merchandise, tickets for any lottery conducted under chapter 226,  
95 the value of which shall be the purchase price printed on such tickets,  
96 or other personal property. No permittee may offer a prize which  
97 exceeds two hundred fifty dollars in value, except that (1) a permittee  
98 may offer a prize or prizes on any one day of not less than two  
99 hundred fifty-one dollars or more than seven hundred fifty dollars in  
100 value, provided the total value of such prizes on any one day does not  
101 exceed twenty-five hundred dollars, (2) a permittee may offer one or  
102 two winner-take-all bingo games or series of bingo games played on  
103 any day on which the permittee is allowed to conduct bingo games,  
104 provided ninety per cent of all receipts from the sale of bingo cards for  
105 such winner-take-all bingo game or series of bingo games shall be  
106 awarded as prizes for such bingo games or series of bingo games and  
107 provided each prize awarded does not exceed one thousand dollars in  
108 value, (3) the holder of a Class A permit may offer two additional  
109 prizes on a weekly basis not to exceed five hundred dollars each as a  
110 special grand prize and in the event such a special grand prize is not  
111 won, the money reserved for such prize shall be added to the money  
112 reserved for the next week's special grand prize, provided no such

113 special grand prize may accumulate for more than sixteen weeks or  
114 exceed a total of five thousand dollars, and (4) a permittee may award  
115 door prizes the aggregate value of which shall not exceed five hundred  
116 dollars in value. When more than one player wins on the call of the  
117 same number, the designated prize shall be divided equally to the next  
118 nearest dollar. If a permittee elects, no winner may receive a prize  
119 which amounts to less than ten per cent of the announced prize and in  
120 such case the total of such multiple prizes may exceed the statutory  
121 limit of such bingo game.

122 [(j)] (i) Any organization operating or conducting a bingo game shall  
123 file a return with the [commissioner] municipal official, on a form  
124 prepared by [him or her] the municipal official, within ten days after  
125 such bingo game is held or within such further time as the  
126 [commissioner] municipal official may allow, and pay to the [state]  
127 municipality in which the bingo game was conducted a fee of five per  
128 cent of the gross receipts, less the prizes awarded including prizes  
129 reserved for special grand prize games, derived from such bingo  
130 games at each bingo session. All such returns shall be public records.  
131 [The commissioner shall pay each municipality in which bingo games  
132 are conducted, one-quarter of one per cent of the total money wagered  
133 less prizes awarded on such games conducted. He or she shall make  
134 such payment at least once a year and not more than four times a year  
135 from the fee imposed pursuant to this subsection.]

136 [(k)] (j) (1) Whenever it appears to the [commissioner] municipal  
137 official after an investigation that any person is violating or is about to  
138 violate any provision of this section or section 7-169a, as amended by  
139 this act, [or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto, the  
140 commissioner] or made any false statement in any application for a  
141 permit or in any report required by this section, the municipal official  
142 may, in his or her discretion, to protect the public welfare, order that  
143 any permit issued pursuant to this section be immediately suspended  
144 or revoked and that the person cease and desist from the actions  
145 constituting such violation or which would constitute such violation.

146 [After such an order is issued, the person named therein may, not later  
147 than fourteen days after receipt of the order, file a written request for a  
148 hearing. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions  
149 of chapter 54.] Any person aggrieved by any order of the municipal  
150 official may appeal to the superior court for the judicial district in  
151 which the municipality is located.

152 [(2) Whenever the commissioner finds as the result of an  
153 investigation that any person has violated any provision of this section  
154 or section 7-169a or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto  
155 or made any false statement in any application for a permit or in any  
156 report required by this section or section 7-169a or by the  
157 commissioner, the commissioner may send a notice to such person by  
158 certified mail, return receipt requested. Any such notice shall include  
159 (A) a reference to the section or regulation alleged to have been  
160 violated or the application or report in which an alleged false  
161 statement was made, (B) a short and plain statement of the matter  
162 asserted or charged, (C) the fact that any permit issued pursuant to this  
163 section may be suspended or revoked for such violation or false  
164 statement and the maximum penalty that may be imposed for such  
165 violation or false statement, and (D) the time and place for the hearing.  
166 Such hearing shall be fixed for a date not earlier than thirty days after  
167 the notice is mailed.

168 (3) The commissioner shall hold a hearing upon the charges made  
169 unless such person fails to appear at the hearing. Such hearing shall be  
170 held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. If such person  
171 fails to appear at the hearing or if, after the hearing, the commissioner  
172 finds that such person committed such a violation or made such a false  
173 statement, the commissioner may, in his or her discretion, suspend or  
174 revoke such permit and order that a civil penalty of not more than two  
175 hundred dollars be imposed upon such person for such violation or  
176 false statement. The commissioner shall send a copy of any order  
177 issued pursuant to this subdivision by certified mail, return receipt  
178 requested, to any person named in such order. Any person aggrieved

179 by a decision of the commissioner under this subdivision shall have a  
180 right of appeal pursuant to section 4-183.]

181 [(4)] (2) Whenever the [commissioner] municipal official revokes a  
182 permit issued pursuant to this section, [he or she] the municipal official  
183 shall not issue any permit to such permittee for one year after the date  
184 of such revocation.

185 [(5)] (3) Any person who promotes or operates any bingo game  
186 without a permit therefor, or who violates any provision of this section  
187 or section 7-169a, as amended by this act, [or administrative  
188 regulations issued pursuant thereto,] or who makes any false  
189 statement in any application for a permit or in any report required by  
190 this section or section 7-169a, as amended by this act, or by the  
191 [commissioner] municipal official shall be guilty of a class D  
192 misdemeanor.

193 Sec. 2. Section 7-169a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
194 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

195 Every organization desiring to apply for a permit under subsection  
196 [(e)] (d) of section 7-169, as amended by this act, to operate bingo  
197 games shall, before making any such application, register with the  
198 [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official on forms  
199 furnished by the [commissioner] municipal official and secure an  
200 identification number. All applications for permits, amendment of  
201 permits, reports and any other papers relating to games of bingo shall  
202 bear the identification number of the organization involved. Neither  
203 registration nor the assignment of an identification number, which  
204 may be revoked for cause, shall constitute, or be any evidence of, the  
205 eligibility of any organization to receive a permit for or to conduct any  
206 [game of] bingo game.

207 Sec. 3. Section 7-169c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
208 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

209 (a) For the purposes of this section, "bingo game" and "municipal  
210 official" have the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of  
211 section 7-169, as amended by this act.

212 ~~[(a)]~~ (b) Any organization whose membership consists of persons  
213 sixty years of age or over may operate and conduct bingo games on  
214 and after January 1, 1989, for the amusement and recreation of its  
215 members without a permit as required by section 7-169, as amended  
216 by this act, provided (1) such organization has registered with and  
217 applied for and received an identification number from the  
218 [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official, (2) such  
219 organization does not charge an admission fee in excess of one dollar,  
220 (3) the prize or prizes awarded do not exceed fifty dollars in value,  
221 either in cash or merchandise, and (4) only active members of such  
222 organization assist in the operation of the bingo games without  
223 compensation. The [commissioner] municipal official may revoke any  
224 such registration for cause.

225 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Each such organization which operates bingo games shall  
226 keep accurate records of receipts and disbursements, which shall be  
227 available for inspection by the [commissioner] municipal official.

228 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) Each such organization shall be exempt from the provisions  
229 of sections 7-169, as amended by this act, and 7-169a, as amended by  
230 this act.

231 ~~[(d)]~~ The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt such  
232 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, as are necessary to carry  
233 out effectively the provisions of this section in order to prevent fraud  
234 and protect the public, which regulations shall have the effect of law.]

235 Sec. 4. Section 7-169d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
236 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

237 (a) [As used in] For the purposes of this section, (1) ["bingo"] "bingo  
238 game" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-169, as amended



239 by this act, and (2) "bingo products" means bingo ball equipment,  
240 bingo cards or bingo paper.

241 (b) Each group or organization authorized to operate or conduct a  
242 bingo game or series of bingo games pursuant to sections 7-169 [, 7-  
243 169a and] to 7-169c, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall use bingo  
244 products that are (1) owned in full by such group or organization, (2)  
245 used without compensation by such group or organization, or (3)  
246 rented or purchased from a bingo product manufacturer or equipment  
247 dealer who is registered with the Commissioner of Consumer  
248 Protection in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

249 (c) Each applicant for registration as a bingo product manufacturer  
250 or equipment dealer shall apply to the Commissioner of Consumer  
251 Protection on such forms as the commissioner prescribes. The  
252 application shall be accompanied by an annual fee of two thousand  
253 five hundred dollars payable to the State Treasurer. Each applicant for  
254 an initial registration shall submit to state and national criminal history  
255 records checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a before  
256 such registration is issued.

257 (d) No registered bingo product manufacturer or equipment dealer  
258 shall rent or sell any type of bingo product that has not been approved  
259 by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

260 (e) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may revoke for cause  
261 any registration issued [in accordance with] pursuant to subsection (c)  
262 of this section.

263 (f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt  
264 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the  
265 provisions of this section.

266 Sec. 5. Section 7-169e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
267 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

268        (a) For the purposes of this section, "bingo game" and "municipal  
269 official" have the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of  
270 section 7-169, as amended by this act.

271        [(a)] (b) Any parent teacher association or organization may operate  
272 and conduct [games of bingo, as defined in section 7-169,] bingo games  
273 for the amusement and recreation of such association's or  
274 organization's members and guests without a permit, as required by  
275 [said] section 7-169, as amended by this act, provided (1) such  
276 association or organization registers annually with the [Department of  
277 Consumer Protection] municipal official and pays an annual  
278 registration fee of eighty dollars, (2) such association or organization  
279 obtains an identification number from the [department] municipal  
280 official, (3) such association or organization charges an admission fee  
281 of not more than one dollar, (4) each individual prize of cash or  
282 merchandise offered does not exceed fifty dollars in value, and (5) only  
283 active members of such association or organization assist in the  
284 operation of the games of bingo and assist without compensation. The  
285 [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official may revoke  
286 any such registration for cause. [Any registration fees collected in  
287 accordance with this subsection shall be remitted to the state.]

288        [(b)] (c) Each such association or organization shall keep accurate  
289 records of receipts and disbursements related to such [games of] bingo  
290 games, and such records shall be available for inspection by the  
291 [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official.

292        [(c)] (d) Each such association or organization shall be exempt from  
293 the requirements of sections 7-169, as amended by this act, and 7-169a,  
294 as amended by this act.

295        [(d)] The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt  
296 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the  
297 provisions of this section in order to prevent fraud and protect the  
298 public.]

299 Sec. 6. Subsection (h) of section 7-169h of the general statutes is  
300 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
301 *January 1, 2018*):

302 (h) (1) The department may issue a permit to sell sealed tickets to  
303 any organization or group specified in subsection [(d)] (c) of section 7-  
304 169, as amended by this act, which holds a bingo permit issued in  
305 accordance with the provisions of section 7-169, as amended by this  
306 act. Such permit shall be renewed annually.

307 (2) The department may issue a permit to sell sealed tickets to any  
308 organization or group specified in subsection [(d)] (c) of section 7-169,  
309 as amended by this act, which holds a club permit or nonprofit club  
310 permit under the provisions of chapter 545. Such permit shall be  
311 renewed annually.

312 (3) The department may issue a permit to sell sealed tickets to any  
313 organization or group specified in section 7-172 which holds a permit  
314 to operate a bazaar, issued in accordance with the provisions of  
315 sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act.

316 (4) The department may issue a permit to sell sealed tickets to any  
317 charitable, civic, educational, fraternal, veterans' or religious  
318 organization, volunteer fire department or grange authorizing such  
319 organization to sell sealed tickets in conjunction with any social  
320 function or event sponsored or conducted by such organization. Any  
321 such organization shall have been organized for not less than two  
322 years prior to the date of its application for such permit. Such permit  
323 shall be renewed annually.

324 Sec. 7. Section 7-173 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
325 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

326 (a) For the purposes of this section, "municipal official" means the  
327 chief of police of the municipality, or if there is no police department,  
328 the chief executive officer of the municipality, where the bazaar or

329 raffle is to be conducted.

330 (b) Any organization desiring to operate a bazaar or raffle in a  
331 municipality which has adopted the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-  
332 186, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall make application, duly  
333 executed and verified, to the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection]  
334 municipal official on a form to be prescribed by the [commissioner, in  
335 which shall be stated (1) the name and address of the applicant; (2)  
336 facts relating to its incorporation or organization; (3) the names, titles  
337 and addresses of its officers; (4) the kind of bazaar or raffle intended to  
338 be held, operated and conducted by the applicant; (5) the place where  
339 such bazaar or raffle is intended to be conducted by the applicant  
340 under the permit applied for; (6) the date or dates and the time or  
341 times when such bazaar or raffle is intended to be conducted by the  
342 applicant under the permit applied for; (7) in the case of a raffle, the  
343 number and price of tickets intended to be sold; (8) the items of  
344 expense intended to be incurred or paid in connection with the  
345 holding, operating and conducting of such bazaar or raffle and the  
346 names and addresses of the persons to whom, and the purposes for  
347 which, they are to be paid; (9) the items of merchandise offered, the  
348 price to be paid by the organization therefor or the retail value of any  
349 prize donated, and the names and addresses of the persons from  
350 whom purchased or by whom donated; (10) the specific purposes to  
351 which the entire net proceeds of such bazaar or raffle are to be devoted  
352 and in what manner; and (11)] municipal official. The form shall  
353 include, but not be limited to, a description of the bazaar or raffle to be  
354 conducted and any other information which the [commissioner]  
355 municipal official reasonably requires for the protection of the public.  
356 In each application there shall be designated three active members of  
357 the applicant under whom the bazaar or raffle described in the  
358 application is to be held, operated and conducted and to the  
359 application shall be appended a statement signed, under penalty of  
360 false statement, by such members so designated that they are residents  
361 of this state and will be responsible for the holding, operation and

362 conduct of such bazaar or raffle in accordance with the terms of the  
363 permit and the provisions of said sections, and that the statements  
364 contained in the application are, to the best of their knowledge and  
365 belief, true. [The commissioner shall forward such application to the  
366 chief of police of the municipality or, if there is no police department,  
367 to the chief executive officer of the municipality.]

368 Sec. 8. Section 7-174 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
369 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

370 After receipt of an application [from the Commissioner of  
371 Consumer Protection, the chief of police or chief executive officer, as  
372 the case may be, shall, on behalf of the commissioner,] pursuant to  
373 section 7-173, as amended by this act, the municipal official, as defined  
374 in said section, shall make or cause to be made an investigation of the  
375 qualifications of the applicant and the facts stated in the application  
376 and, if [such chief of police or chief executive officer] the municipal  
377 official determines that the applicant is qualified to hold, operate and  
378 conduct a bazaar or raffle under the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-  
379 186, inclusive, as amended by this act, that the members of the  
380 applicant designated in the application to hold, operate or conduct  
381 such bazaar or raffle are residents of this state, bona fide active  
382 members of the applicant and persons of good moral character and  
383 have never been convicted of a felony and that such bazaar or raffle is  
384 to be held, operated and conducted in accordance with the provisions  
385 of said sections, [and administrative regulations issued pursuant  
386 thereto, such chief of police or chief executive officer shall, with the  
387 approval of the commissioner,] the municipal official shall issue a  
388 permit to such applicant. [Any investigation required pursuant to this  
389 section of the qualifications of an applicant for a "Class No. 7" permit,  
390 authorized pursuant to section 7-175, and any issuance of a "Class No.  
391 7" permit shall be made by the commissioner.]

392 Sec. 9. Section 7-176 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
393 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

394 The fees to be charged for permits issued pursuant to section 7-175,  
395 as amended by this act, shall be as follows: A "Class No. 1" permit,  
396 [fifty dollars,] twenty-five dollars; [to be retained by the state at the  
397 time application for the permit is made and twenty-five dollars  
398 remitted to the municipality upon issuance of the permit;] a "Class No.  
399 2" permit, [twenty dollars,] ten dollars; [to be retained by the state at  
400 the time application for the permit is made and ten dollars to be  
401 remitted to the municipality upon issuance of the permit;] a "Class No.  
402 3" permit, [twenty] ten dollars for each day of the bazaar; [, ten dollars  
403 to be retained by the state at the time application for the permit is  
404 made and ten dollars to be remitted to the municipality upon issuance  
405 of the permit;] a "Class No. 4" permit, five dollars; [, to be remitted to  
406 the municipality;] a "Class No. 5" permit, [eighty dollars,] forty dollars;  
407 [to be retained by the state at the time application for the permit is  
408 made and forty dollars remitted to the municipality upon issuance of  
409 the permit;] a "Class No. 6" permit, [one hundred dollars,] fifty dollars;  
410 [to be retained by the state at the time application for the permit is  
411 made and fifty dollars remitted to the municipality upon issuance of  
412 the permit;] and a "Class No. 7" permit, one hundred dollars. [to be  
413 retained by the state.]

414 Sec. 10. Subsection (c) of section 7-177a of the general statutes is  
415 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
416 *January 1, 2018*):

417 (c) Any raffle described in subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall  
418 conform to the requirements of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as  
419 amended by this act. Each organization conducting a raffle described  
420 in this section shall deposit all proceeds from such raffle in a special  
421 checking account established and maintained by the organization  
422 which shall be subject to audit by the [Department of Consumer  
423 Protection] municipal official, as defined in section 7-173, as amended  
424 by this act. Any expense incidental to the conduct of such raffle shall  
425 be paid from the gross receipts of raffle tickets and only by checks  
426 drawn from such checking account. All cash prizes awarded shall be

427 paid from such checking account.

428 Sec. 11. Section 7-180 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
429 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

430 If there is any change in the facts set forth in the application for a  
431 permit to conduct a bazaar or raffle subsequent to the making of such  
432 application, the applicant shall immediately notify the [Commissioner  
433 of Consumer Protection] municipal official of such change. [, and the  
434 commissioner may, if he] The municipal official may, if he or she  
435 deems such action advisable in the public interest, revoke such permit.

436 Sec. 12. Section 7-181 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
437 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

438 (a) For the purposes of this section, "municipal official" means the  
439 chief of police of the municipality, or if there is no police department,  
440 the chief executive officer of the municipality, where the bazaar or  
441 raffle is to be conducted or is conducted.

442 [(a)] (b) Whenever it appears to the [Commissioner of Consumer  
443 Protection] municipal official, after an investigation that any person is  
444 violating or is about to violate any provision of sections 7-170 to [7-185,  
445 inclusive, or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto, the  
446 commissioner may in his] 7-182, inclusive, as amended by this act, or  
447 made any false statement in any application for a permit or in any  
448 report required by the provisions of said sections, the municipal  
449 official may in his or her discretion, to protect the public welfare, order  
450 that any registration or permit issued pursuant to said sections be  
451 immediately suspended or revoked and that the person cease and  
452 desist from the actions constituting such violation or which would  
453 constitute such violation. [After such an order is issued, the person  
454 named therein may, within fourteen days after receipt of the order, file  
455 a written request for a hearing. Such hearing shall be held in  
456 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.] Any person aggrieved  
457 by any order of the municipal official may appeal to the superior court

458 for the judicial district in which the municipality is located.

459 [(b) Whenever the Commissioner of Consumer Protection finds as  
460 the result of an investigation that any person has violated any  
461 provision of sections 7-170 to 7-185, inclusive, or administrative  
462 regulations issued pursuant thereto or made any false statement in any  
463 application for a permit or in any report required by the provisions of  
464 said sections, the commissioner may send a notice to such person by  
465 certified mail, return receipt requested. Any such notice shall include  
466 (1) a reference to the section or regulation alleged to have been violated  
467 or the application or report in which an alleged false statement was  
468 made, (2) a short and plain statement of the matter asserted or  
469 charged, (3) the fact that any registration or permit issued pursuant to  
470 sections 7-170 to 7-185, inclusive, may be suspended or revoked for  
471 such violation or false statement and the maximum penalty that may  
472 be imposed for such violation or false statement, and (4) the time and  
473 place for the hearing. Such hearing shall be fixed for a date not earlier  
474 than fourteen days after the notice is mailed.

475 (c) The commissioner shall hold a hearing upon the charges made  
476 unless such person fails to appear at the hearing. Such hearing shall be  
477 held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. If such person  
478 fails to appear at the hearing or if, after the hearing, the commissioner  
479 finds that such person committed such a violation or made such a false  
480 statement, the commissioner may, in his discretion, suspend or revoke  
481 such registration or permit and order that a civil penalty of not more  
482 than two hundred dollars be imposed upon such person for such  
483 violation or false statement. The commissioner shall send a copy of any  
484 order issued pursuant to this subsection by certified mail, return  
485 receipt requested, to any person named in such order. Any person  
486 aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner under this subsection  
487 shall have a right of appeal pursuant to section 4-183.]

488 [(d)] (c) Whenever the [commissioner] municipal official revokes a  
489 permit issued pursuant to sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as



490 amended by this act, [the issuing authority] the municipal official shall  
491 not issue any permit to such permittee for three years after the date of  
492 such violation.

493 Sec. 13. Section 7-182 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
494 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

495 Any sponsoring organization that holds, operates or conducts any  
496 bazaar or raffle, and its members who were in charge thereof, shall  
497 furnish to the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection a verified  
498 statement] municipal official, as defined in subsection (a) of section 7-  
499 181, as amended by this act, a report showing (1) the amount of the  
500 gross receipts derived from each bazaar or raffle, (2) in the case of a  
501 raffle, the number and price of tickets sold, (3) each item of expense  
502 incurred or paid, and each item of expenditure made or to be made  
503 and the name and address of each person to whom each such item has  
504 been or is to be paid, (4) the net profit derived from each bazaar or  
505 raffle and the uses to which the net profit has been or is to be applied,  
506 and (5) a list of prizes of a retail value of fifty dollars or more offered or  
507 given with the amount paid for each prize purchased or the retail  
508 value for each prize donated and the names and addresses of the  
509 persons to whom the prizes were given. Such report shall be furnished  
510 during the next succeeding month. The [commissioner] municipal  
511 official shall keep such report on file and available for public  
512 inspection for a period of one year thereafter. The sponsoring  
513 organization shall maintain and keep any books and records that may  
514 be necessary to substantiate the particulars of such report, which books  
515 and records shall be preserved for at least one year from the date of  
516 such report and shall be available for inspection. Such report shall be  
517 certified to under penalty of false statement by the three persons  
518 designated in the permit application as being responsible for the  
519 bazaar or raffle.

520 Sec. 14. Section 7-183 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
521 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

522 Each such report may be examined by the [Commissioner of  
523 Consumer Protection] municipal official, as defined in subsection (a) of  
524 section 7-181, as amended by this act, and compared with the original  
525 application. The [commissioner] municipal official may refer any  
526 violation of sections 7-170 to [7-185] 7-182, inclusive, as amended by  
527 this act, [or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto found  
528 therein] to the office of the state's attorney having jurisdiction over the  
529 municipality in which the sponsoring organization is located and, if  
530 the bazaar or raffle was located in a different municipality than the  
531 municipality in which the sponsoring organization is located, to the  
532 office of the state's attorney having jurisdiction over the municipality  
533 in which the bazaar or raffle was located. Such state's attorney office  
534 shall investigate and take such action as the facts require.

535 Sec. 15. Section 7-185a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
536 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

537 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186,  
538 inclusive, as amended by this act, [and the regulations adopted  
539 thereunder,] any organized church, volunteer fire company or veterans  
540 organization or association conducting a bazaar or raffle, (1) may be  
541 permitted to redeem prizes in cash; (2) shall be exempt from the  
542 requirement of preserving unsold raffle tickets beyond ninety days  
543 after the conclusion of the holding, operating and conducting of such  
544 bazaar or raffle and shall be permitted to dispose of unclaimed prizes  
545 after such ninety days; and (3) may file a reconciliation of expenditures  
546 and receipts signed by an officer in lieu of an accountant.

547 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186,  
548 inclusive, as amended by this act, [and the regulations adopted  
549 thereunder,] any sponsoring organization qualified to conduct a  
550 bazaar or raffle under the provisions of section 7-172 may conduct  
551 such bazaar or have the actual drawing of such raffle in a municipality  
552 other than the municipality which grants the permit, provided the  
553 chief of police or if there is no police department, the chief executive

554 officer of the other municipality has in writing approved such bazaar  
555 or drawing.

556 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-177, any sponsoring  
557 organization conducting a bazaar may operate "fifty-fifty" coupon  
558 games each day of a permitted bazaar event and may award cash  
559 prizes of fifty per cent of "fifty-fifty" coupon game sales for each  
560 coupon drawing conducted. Not more than three scheduled drawings  
561 may be held on any day on which a bazaar is permitted. A "fifty-fifty"  
562 coupon game shall be operated from an authorized bazaar booth [,  
563 subject to the regulation of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection]  
564 and shall allow for the sale of "fifty-fifty" coupons at a predetermined  
565 uniform price. Each "fifty-fifty" coupon shall be consecutively  
566 numbered and shall have a correspondingly numbered stub. Each  
567 sponsoring organization shall provide different colored coupons for  
568 each drawing and shall award one prize for each drawing held. Each  
569 sponsoring organization conducting such games shall conspicuously  
570 post, at each bazaar booth at which such games are conducted, a notice  
571 or notices which shall include the dates, times and places of any "fifty-  
572 fifty" coupon drawings, as well as the prices and colors of coupons to  
573 be sold for each drawing. The [commissioner] municipal officer shall  
574 prescribe the form of such notice which shall contain the following  
575 statement: "Holders of coupons must be present to claim a prize." Each  
576 such organization shall account for each coupon printed and sold for  
577 each drawing and shall announce the amount of sales and the prize to  
578 be awarded immediately prior to each drawing. The sponsoring  
579 organization shall preserve all sold and unsold coupons or stubs for a  
580 period of at least one year from the date of the verified statement  
581 required pursuant to section 7-182, as amended by this act.

582 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-177, any sponsoring  
583 organization qualified to conduct a bazaar or raffle under the  
584 provisions of section 7-172 may operate a cow-chip raffle once a  
585 calendar year and may award cash prizes in connection with  
586 participation in such a raffle, in addition to those prizes authorized

587 pursuant to section 7-177. Such raffles shall conform to the provisions  
588 of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act. [and shall  
589 be subject to regulation by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.]  
590 A cow-chip raffle shall allow for the sale of consecutively numbered  
591 tickets with correspondingly numbered stubs, entitling the holders of  
592 such tickets to the temporary possession of a plot of land for purposes  
593 of the conduct of the cow-chip raffle. Each sponsoring organization  
594 conducting a cow-chip raffle shall provide for a suitable land area on  
595 which the cow-chip raffle activity is to be conducted. The area shall be  
596 sufficiently enclosed so as to confine any animal utilized in the conduct  
597 of a cow-chip raffle during the period in which the animal is so  
598 utilized. The area shall be adequately marked so as to display the  
599 number of plots to be utilized, which shall correspond to the number  
600 of cow-chip raffle tickets to be sold. The manner in which winners in a  
601 cow-chip raffle are determined shall be clearly stated prior to the  
602 commencement of a cow-chip raffle drawing and each sponsoring  
603 organization shall conspicuously post an information board which  
604 shall display the consecutively numbered plots of the cow-chip raffle  
605 event. A cow-chip raffle drawing shall commence at a designated time  
606 and shall continue until all winners of authorized prizes have been  
607 determined. No person may feed, lead or handle any animal utilized in  
608 a cow-chip raffle once the animal has entered into the enclosed area  
609 from which winners will be determined. Each sponsoring organization  
610 conducting a cow-chip raffle shall deposit all proceeds from the  
611 conduct of such raffle in a special checking account established and  
612 maintained by such organization, which shall be subject to audit by the  
613 [commissioner] municipal official. Any expense incidental to the  
614 conduct of such raffle shall be paid from the gross receipts of cow-chip  
615 raffle tickets and only by checks drawn from such checking account.  
616 All cash prizes awarded shall be paid from such checking account.

617 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186,  
618 inclusive, as amended by this act, [and the regulations adopted  
619 pursuant to said sections,] any sponsoring organization conducting a

620 bazaar may operate a "teacup raffle" and may, through the sale of  
621 chances, award prizes consisting of gift certificates or merchandise. No  
622 such organization may conduct more than one scheduled "teacup  
623 raffle" drawing for all prizes offered on any day on which a bazaar is  
624 permitted. A "teacup raffle" shall be operated from an authorized  
625 bazaar booth, [and shall be subject to regulation by the Commissioner  
626 of Consumer Protection.] Each "teacup raffle" ticket shall (1) be  
627 consecutively numbered and have a correspondingly numbered stub  
628 that shall include the name, address and telephone number of the  
629 purchaser, or (2) be a sheet containing up to twenty-five coupons, each  
630 bearing the same number, and including a "hold" stub for the  
631 purchaser and a correspondingly numbered stub including the name,  
632 address and telephone number of the purchaser. Sheet tickets shall be  
633 made available for purchase by permittees as fund raising items at a  
634 price not to exceed ten per cent above the purchase price. Each  
635 sponsoring organization conducting such raffle shall conspicuously  
636 post, at each bazaar booth at which such raffle is conducted, a notice or  
637 notices that include the date and time of any "teacup raffle" drawing.  
638 The sponsoring organization shall preserve all sold and unsold tickets  
639 or stubs for a period of at least one year from the date of the verified  
640 statement required pursuant to section 7-182, as amended by this act.

641 (f) [(1)] Any sponsoring organization qualified to conduct a bazaar  
642 or raffle under the provisions of section 7-172 may operate a duck-race  
643 raffle once each calendar year. Such raffles shall conform to the  
644 provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act.  
645 [and shall be subject to regulation by the Commissioner of Consumer  
646 Protection.] For the purpose of this subsection, "duck-race raffle"  
647 means a raffle in which artificial ducks, numbered consecutively to  
648 correspond with the number of tickets sold for such raffle, are placed  
649 in a naturally moving stream of water at a designated starting point  
650 and in which the ticket corresponding to the number of the first duck  
651 to pass a designated finishing point is the winning ticket. [(2) The  
652 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,

653 that establish procedures for the operation of duck-race raffles.]

654 (g) [(1)] Any sponsoring organization qualified to conduct a bazaar  
655 or raffle under the provisions of section 7-172 may operate a frog-race  
656 raffle once each calendar year. Such raffles shall conform to the  
657 provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act.  
658 [and shall be subject to regulation by the Commissioner of Consumer  
659 Protection.] For the purpose of this subsection, "frog-race raffle" means  
660 a raffle in which artificial frogs [conforming to specifications approved  
661 by the commissioner and] numbered consecutively to correspond with  
662 the number of tickets sold for such raffle, are placed in a naturally  
663 moving stream of water at a designated starting point and in which the  
664 ticket corresponding to the number of the first frog to pass a  
665 designated finishing point is the winning ticket. [(2) The commissioner  
666 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, that establish  
667 procedures for the operation of frog-race raffles.]

668 (h) [(1)] Any sponsoring organization qualified to conduct a bazaar  
669 or raffle under the provisions of section 7-172 may operate a golf ball-  
670 drop raffle once each calendar year. Any such raffle shall conform to  
671 the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this  
672 act. [and shall be subject to regulation by the Commissioner of  
673 Consumer Protection.] For the purposes of this subsection, "golf ball-  
674 drop raffle" means a raffle in which golf balls, numbered consecutively  
675 to correspond with the number of tickets sold for such raffle, are  
676 dropped from a pay loader, bucket truck, crane or similar vehicle,  
677 platform, helicopter, hot air balloon or other aircraft hovering above a  
678 designated target, and in which the ticket corresponding to the  
679 number of the first golf ball to be closest to the center of the designated  
680 target is the winning ticket. [(2) The commissioner shall adopt  
681 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, establishing procedures for  
682 the operation of golf ball-drop raffles.]

683 Sec. 16. Section 7-185b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
684 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

685 (a) [As used in] For the purposes of this section, "tuition raffle"  
686 means a raffle in which the prize is payment of the tuition or part of  
687 the tuition at an educational institution or payment of a student loan or  
688 part of a student loan for a student recipient designated by the raffle  
689 winner, and "municipal official" means the chief of police of the  
690 municipality, or if there is no police department, the chief executive  
691 officer of the municipality, where the tuition raffle is to be conducted  
692 or is conducted.

693 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186,  
694 inclusive, as amended by this act, any organization qualified to  
695 conduct a bazaar or raffle under section 7-172 may conduct a [special]  
696 tuition raffle once each calendar year. The [Commissioner of  
697 Consumer Protection shall adopt such regulations, in accordance with  
698 chapter 54, as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.  
699 Said regulations shall] municipality where the tuition raffle is to be  
700 conducted shall, by ordinance, (1) allow any organization permitted to  
701 conduct a [special] tuition raffle to fund all or a part of a student  
702 recipient's education or to pay all or part of a student recipient's  
703 student loan each year for a period not to exceed four years, (2) permit  
704 the student recipient to be the actual tuition raffle winner, a relative of  
705 the raffle winner or a student chosen by the raffle winner, (3) give  
706 authority to the sponsoring organization to permit the tuition prize to  
707 be divided among student recipients designated by the raffle winner,  
708 (4) provide that the tuition prize be paid each consecutive year,  
709 commencing with the first year of the student recipient's education at  
710 an accredited private or parochial school, or public or independent  
711 institution of higher education selected by the student recipient, (5)  
712 provide that the tuition prize be paid directly to the educational  
713 institution or financial institution that made the student loan  
714 designated by the student recipient, and no tuition prize shall be  
715 redeemed or redeemable for cash, and (6) provide that the tuition raffle  
716 winner have a period not to exceed four years to designate a student  
717 recipient. For the purposes of this section, "financial institution" means

718 a bank, as defined in section 36a-2, an out-of-state bank, as defined in  
719 section 36a-2, a Connecticut credit union, as defined in section 36a-2,  
720 an out-of-state credit union, as defined in section 36a-2, an institutional  
721 lender, any subsidiary or affiliate of such bank, out-of-state bank,  
722 Connecticut credit union, out-of-state credit union or institutional  
723 lender, or other lender licensed by the Department of Banking.

724 (c) All proceeds of the [special] tuition raffle shall be deposited in a  
725 special dedicated bank account approved by the [Commissioner of  
726 Consumer Protection] municipal official, and all [special] tuition raffle  
727 expenses shall be paid from such account. The [commissioner]  
728 municipal official shall prescribe the maintenance of tuition raffle  
729 accounts by any sponsoring organization and such accounts shall be  
730 subject to audit by the [commissioner or a designee. The  
731 commissioner] municipal official. The municipal official may require  
732 any organization conducting a tuition raffle to post a performance  
733 bond in an amount sufficient to fully fund the [special] tuition raffle  
734 prize to be awarded.

735 (d) Any organization permitted to conduct a [special] tuition raffle  
736 shall file a tuition raffle financial report in a manner prescribed by the  
737 [commissioner] municipal official. Such report shall detail the status of  
738 the tuition prize money or the raffle and any other information that the  
739 [commissioner] municipal official may require, on a quarterly basis,  
740 during the months of January, April, July and October, until all tuition  
741 or student loan payments for each [special] tuition raffle have been  
742 paid.

743 Sec. 17. Section 7-186 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
744 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

745 Any person who violates any provision of sections 7-170 to [7-185,  
746 inclusive, or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto] 7-182,  
747 inclusive, as amended by this act, or who makes any false statement in  
748 any application for a permit or in any report required by the



749 provisions of said sections shall be fined not more than one thousand  
 750 dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined and  
 751 imprisoned.

752 Sec. 18. Section 7-185 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
 753 *January 1, 2018*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-169
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-169a
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-169c
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-169d
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-169e
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-169h(h)
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-173
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-174
Sec. 9	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-176
Sec. 10	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-177a(c)
Sec. 11	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-180
Sec. 12	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-181
Sec. 13	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-182
Sec. 14	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-183
Sec. 15	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-185a
Sec. 16	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-185b
Sec. 17	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	7-186
Sec. 18	<i>January 1, 2018</i>	Repealer section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To transfer the responsibilities of permitting and regulating the operation of bingo games, bazaars and raffles conducted by charitable organizations from the Department of Consumer Protection to the municipalities where such bingo games, bazaars and raffles are conducted.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*