



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Substitute Bill No. 7137

* _____HB07137PS_____031517_____*

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 Section 7-169 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 shall be as follows: A "Class No. 1" permit, [fifty dollars,] twenty-five
396 dollars; [to be retained by the state at the time application for the
397 permit is made and twenty-five dollars remitted to the municipality
398 upon issuance of the permit;] a "Class No. 2" permit, [twenty dollars,]
399 ten dollars; [to be retained by the state at the time application for the
400 permit is made and ten dollars to be remitted to the municipality upon
401 issuance of the permit;] a "Class No. 3" permit, [twenty] ten dollars for
402 each day of the bazaar; [, ten dollars to be retained by the state at the
403 time application for the permit is made and ten dollars to be remitted
404 to the municipality upon issuance of the permit;] a "Class No. 4"
405 permit, five dollars; [, to be remitted to the municipality;] a "Class No.

406 5" permit, [eighty dollars,] forty dollars; [to be retained by the state at
407 the time application for the permit is made and forty dollars remitted
408 to the municipality upon issuance of the permit;] a "Class No. 6"
409 permit, [one hundred dollars,] fifty dollars; [to be retained by the state
410 at the time application for the permit is made and fifty dollars remitted
411 to the municipality upon issuance of the permit;] and a "Class No. 7"
412 permit, one hundred dollars. [to be retained by the state.]

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414 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*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

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

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

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

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

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

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

458 [(b) Whenever the Commissioner of Consumer Protection finds as
459 the result of an investigation that any person has violated any
460 provision of sections 7-170 to 7-185, inclusive, or administrative
461 regulations issued pursuant thereto or made any false statement in any
462 application for a permit or in any report required by the provisions of
463 said sections, the commissioner may send a notice to such person by
464 certified mail, return receipt requested. Any such notice shall include
465 (1) a reference to the section or regulation alleged to have been violated
466 or the application or report in which an alleged false statement was
467 made, (2) a short and plain statement of the matter asserted or
468 charged, (3) the fact that any registration or permit issued pursuant to
469 sections 7-170 to 7-185, inclusive, may be suspended or revoked for

470 such violation or false statement and the maximum penalty that may
471 be imposed for such violation or false statement, and (4) the time and
472 place for the hearing. Such hearing shall be fixed for a date not earlier
473 than fourteen days after the notice is mailed.

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

487 [(d)] (c) Whenever the [commissioner] municipal official revokes a
488 permit issued pursuant to sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as
489 amended by this act, [the issuing authority] the municipal official shall
490 not issue any permit to such permittee for three years after the date of
491 such violation.

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

494 Any sponsoring organization that holds, operates or conducts any
495 bazaar or raffle, and its members who were in charge thereof, shall
496 furnish to the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection a verified
497 statement] municipal official, as defined in subsection (a) of section 7-
498 181, as amended by this act, a report showing (1) the amount of the
499 gross receipts derived from each bazaar or raffle, (2) in the case of a
500 raffle, the number and price of tickets sold, (3) each item of expense
501 incurred or paid, and each item of expenditure made or to be made

502 and the name and address of each person to whom each such item has
503 been or is to be paid, (4) the net profit derived from each bazaar or
504 raffle and the uses to which the net profit has been or is to be applied,
505 and (5) a list of prizes of a retail value of fifty dollars or more offered or
506 given with the amount paid for each prize purchased or the retail
507 value for each prize donated and the names and addresses of the
508 persons to whom the prizes were given. Such report shall be furnished
509 during the next succeeding month. The [commissioner] municipal
510 official shall keep such report on file and available for public
511 inspection for a period of one year thereafter. The sponsoring
512 organization shall maintain and keep any books and records that may
513 be necessary to substantiate the particulars of such report, which books
514 and records shall be preserved for at least one year from the date of
515 such report and shall be available for inspection. Such report shall be
516 certified to under penalty of false statement by the three persons
517 designated in the permit application as being responsible for the
518 bazaar or raffle.

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

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

534 Sec. 15. Section 7-185a of the general statutes is repealed and the

535 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

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

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

555 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-177, any sponsoring
556 organization conducting a bazaar may operate "fifty-fifty" coupon
557 games each day of a permitted bazaar event and may award cash
558 prizes of fifty per cent of "fifty-fifty" coupon game sales for each
559 coupon drawing conducted. Not more than three scheduled drawings
560 may be held on any day on which a bazaar is permitted. A "fifty-fifty"
561 coupon game shall be operated from an authorized bazaar booth [,
562 subject to the regulation of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection]
563 and shall allow for the sale of "fifty-fifty" coupons at a predetermined
564 uniform price. Each "fifty-fifty" coupon shall be consecutively
565 numbered and shall have a correspondingly numbered stub. Each
566 sponsoring organization shall provide different colored coupons for
567 each drawing and shall award one prize for each drawing held. Each

568 sponsoring organization conducting such games shall conspicuously
569 post, at each bazaar booth at which such games are conducted, a notice
570 or notices which shall include the dates, times and places of any "fifty-
571 fifty" coupon drawings, as well as the prices and colors of coupons to
572 be sold for each drawing. The [commissioner] municipal officer shall
573 prescribe the form of such notice which shall contain the following
574 statement: "Holders of coupons must be present to claim a prize." Each
575 such organization shall account for each coupon printed and sold for
576 each drawing and shall announce the amount of sales and the prize to
577 be awarded immediately prior to each drawing. The sponsoring
578 organization shall preserve all sold and unsold coupons or stubs for a
579 period of at least one year from the date of the verified statement
580 required pursuant to section 7-182, as amended by this act.

581 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-177, any sponsoring
582 organization qualified to conduct a bazaar or raffle under the
583 provisions of section 7-172 may operate a cow-chip raffle once a
584 calendar year and may award cash prizes in connection with
585 participation in such a raffle, in addition to those prizes authorized
586 pursuant to section 7-177. Such raffles shall conform to the provisions
587 of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act. [and shall
588 be subject to regulation by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.]
589 A cow-chip raffle shall allow for the sale of consecutively numbered
590 tickets with correspondingly numbered stubs, entitling the holders of
591 such tickets to the temporary possession of a plot of land for purposes
592 of the conduct of the cow-chip raffle. Each sponsoring organization
593 conducting a cow-chip raffle shall provide for a suitable land area on
594 which the cow-chip raffle activity is to be conducted. The area shall be
595 sufficiently enclosed so as to confine any animal utilized in the conduct
596 of a cow-chip raffle during the period in which the animal is so
597 utilized. The area shall be adequately marked so as to display the
598 number of plots to be utilized, which shall correspond to the number
599 of cow-chip raffle tickets to be sold. The manner in which winners in a
600 cow-chip raffle are determined shall be clearly stated prior to the
601 commencement of a cow-chip raffle drawing and each sponsoring

602 organization shall conspicuously post an information board which
603 shall display the consecutively numbered plots of the cow-chip raffle
604 event. A cow-chip raffle drawing shall commence at a designated time
605 and shall continue until all winners of authorized prizes have been
606 determined. No person may feed, lead or handle any animal utilized in
607 a cow-chip raffle once the animal has entered into the enclosed area
608 from which winners will be determined. Each sponsoring organization
609 conducting a cow-chip raffle shall deposit all proceeds from the
610 conduct of such raffle in a special checking account established and
611 maintained by such organization, which shall be subject to audit by the
612 [commissioner] municipal official. Any expense incidental to the
613 conduct of such raffle shall be paid from the gross receipts of cow-chip
614 raffle tickets and only by checks drawn from such checking account.
615 All cash prizes awarded shall be paid from such checking account.

616 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186,
617 inclusive, as amended by this act, [and the regulations adopted
618 pursuant to said sections,] any sponsoring organization conducting a
619 bazaar may operate a "teacup raffle" and may, through the sale of
620 chances, award prizes consisting of gift certificates or merchandise. No
621 such organization may conduct more than one scheduled "teacup
622 raffle" drawing for all prizes offered on any day on which a bazaar is
623 permitted. A "teacup raffle" shall be operated from an authorized
624 bazaar booth, [, and shall be subject to regulation by the Commissioner
625 of Consumer Protection.] Each "teacup raffle" ticket shall (1) be
626 consecutively numbered and have a correspondingly numbered stub
627 that shall include the name, address and telephone number of the
628 purchaser, or (2) be a sheet containing up to twenty-five coupons, each
629 bearing the same number, and including a "hold" stub for the
630 purchaser and a correspondingly numbered stub including the name,
631 address and telephone number of the purchaser. Sheet tickets shall be
632 made available for purchase by permittees as fund raising items at a
633 price not to exceed ten per cent above the purchase price. Each
634 sponsoring organization conducting such raffle shall conspicuously
635 post, at each bazaar booth at which such raffle is conducted, a notice or

636 notices that include the date and time of any "teacup raffle" drawing.
637 The sponsoring organization shall preserve all sold and unsold tickets
638 or stubs for a period of at least one year from the date of the verified
639 statement required pursuant to section 7-182, as amended by this act.

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

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

667 (h) [(1)] Any sponsoring organization qualified to conduct a bazaar
668 or raffle under the provisions of section 7-172 may operate a golf ball-

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

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

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

692 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186,
693 inclusive, as amended by this act, any organization qualified to
694 conduct a bazaar or raffle under section 7-172 may conduct a [special]
695 tuition raffle once each calendar year. The [Commissioner of
696 Consumer Protection shall adopt such regulations, in accordance with
697 chapter 54, as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.
698 Said regulations shall] municipality where the tuition raffle is to be
699 conducted shall, by ordinance, (1) allow any organization permitted to
700 conduct a [special] tuition raffle to fund all or a part of a student
701 recipient's education or to pay all or part of a student recipient's

702 student loan each year for a period not to exceed four years, (2) permit
703 the student recipient to be the actual tuition raffle winner, a relative of
704 the raffle winner or a student chosen by the raffle winner, (3) give
705 authority to the sponsoring organization to permit the tuition prize to
706 be divided among student recipients designated by the raffle winner,
707 (4) provide that the tuition prize be paid each consecutive year,
708 commencing with the first year of the student recipient's education at
709 an accredited private or parochial school, or public or independent
710 institution of higher education selected by the student recipient, (5)
711 provide that the tuition prize be paid directly to the educational
712 institution or financial institution that made the student loan
713 designated by the student recipient, and no tuition prize shall be
714 redeemed or redeemable for cash, and (6) provide that the tuition raffle
715 winner have a period not to exceed four years to designate a student
716 recipient. For the purposes of this section, "financial institution" means
717 a bank, as defined in section 36a-2, an out-of-state bank, as defined in
718 section 36a-2, a Connecticut credit union, as defined in section 36a-2,
719 an out-of-state credit union, as defined in section 36a-2, an institutional
720 lender, any subsidiary or affiliate of such bank, out-of-state bank,
721 Connecticut credit union, out-of-state credit union or institutional
722 lender, or other lender licensed by the Department of Banking.

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

734 (d) Any organization permitted to conduct a [special] tuition raffle

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

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

744 Any person who violates any provision of sections 7-170 to [7-185,
 745 inclusive, or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto] 7-182,
 746 inclusive, as amended by this act, or who makes any false statement in
 747 any application for a permit or in any report required by the
 748 provisions of said sections shall be fined not more than one thousand
 749 dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined and
 750 imprisoned.

751 Sec. 18. Section 7-185 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 752 *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 Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 9, "as amended by this act," was deleted for accuracy.

PS *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*