



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 273
[2013 Assembly Bill 422]

Types of Raffles That May be Conducted Under a State Raffle License

Wisconsin law allows religious, charitable, service, fraternal, veterans', and other tax-exempt organizations to obtain a license to conduct a raffle. **Prior law** defined "raffle" to mean a game of chance in which tickets or calendars are sold and a drawing for prizes is held.

2013 Wisconsin Act 273 expands the definition of raffles that may be conducted under a state license to include any game of chance for which a method for choosing a winner has been approved by the Department of Administration (DOA) and is based on a winner being determined by random selection with all participants having an equal opportunity to win.

Under the Act, DOA must approve a type of raffle that consists of flexible plastic or rubber ducks being used in a race, and the department must establish requirements for conducting such raffles.

In addition, the Act creates a process for the approval of other types of raffles. Specifically, the Act requires any organization that is licensed to conduct raffles in the state and seeks to conduct a new type of raffle to obtain approval from DOA before conducting such a raffle. DOA may approve a new type of raffle only if it determines that the raffle will comply with certain requirements and rules. If DOA approves a new type of raffle, the department's determination must include a description of how the raffle must be conducted and a description of record-keeping and accounting procedures that must be used. DOA must also post a copy of its determination on the department's website.

Once DOA has approved a new type of raffle under the procedures set forth under the Act, any organization that is licensed to conduct raffles in the state may conduct that type of raffle without receiving specific approval from the department.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

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In addition, the Act allows tickets for a Class B raffle to be sold within the 24-hour period prior to the drawing, whereas prior law required Class B raffle tickets to be sold on the same day as the raffle drawing. However, the Act eliminates a provision that allowed participants in a raffle conducted under a Class B raffle license to win a prize in a raffle despite not being present for the drawing.

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