

## CHAPTER 163

## BINGO AND RAFFLE CONTROL

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## SUBCHAPTER I

## GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS

**163.02 Purpose.** The legislature declares that:

(1) All phases of the conduct of bingo and raffles, except bingo games using free cards and donated prizes for which no payment of consideration is made by participants, should be closely controlled by appropriate laws and rules which should be strictly and uniformly enforced throughout this state.

(2) The conduct of bingo, raffles and all attendant activities, except bingo games using free cards and donated prizes for which no payment of consideration is made by participants, should be so regulated as to discourage commercialization of bingo and raffles in all forms, including the rental of commercial premises for bingo or raffles, and to ensure the maximum use of the profits of bingo exclusively for the lawful purposes specified in this chapter.

(3) It is a matter of statewide concern to foster and support such lawful purposes and to

prevent commercialized gambling, participation by criminal and other undesirable elements and diversion of funds from the lawful purposes herein authorized.

**History:** 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 99; 1977 c. 426.

Bingo conducted on Indian reservations must comply with this chapter. OAG 7-80.

**163.03 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) "Bingo" means a game of chance in which players pay a consideration in order to participate, in which 75 numbered objects are available for selection, and those objects actually selected are selected on a random basis, and in which each player participates by means of cards sold, rented or used only at the time and place of the game, each card containing 5 rows of 5 spaces each, each space printed with a number from 1 to 75, except the central space, which is marked "FREE". Winners are determined and prizes awarded on the basis of possessing a bingo card on which some combination of numbers are printed and conform to the numbered objects selected at random based on a predetermined winning arrangement. "Bingo" as used in this chapter shall not mean any game using free cards and donated prizes, if any, for

which no payment of consideration is made by participants.

(2) "Bingo occasion" means a single gathering or session at which a series of successive bingo games is played.

(3) "Bingo supplies and equipment" means all cards, boards, sheets, markers, pads or other supplies, devices or equipment designed for use in the play of bingo.

(4) "Board" means the bingo control board.

(5) "Department" means the department of regulation and licensing.

(6) "Extra regular card" means a nondisposable card which affords additional opportunities to play in a regular bingo game to be played at a bingo occasion.

(6m) "Gambling place" has the meaning designated in s. 945.01 (4) (a).

(7) "Gross receipts" means total receipts received from the conduct of bingo including, but not limited to, receipts from the sale, rental or use of regular bingo cards, extra regular cards, special bingo cards and bingo supplies.

(8) (a) "Lawful purpose" means one or more of the following:

1. Benefiting persons by enhancing their opportunity for religious or educational advancement, by relieving or protecting them from disease, suffering or distress, by contributing to their physical well-being, by assisting them in establishing themselves in life as worthy and useful citizens or by increasing their comprehension of and devotion to the principles upon which this nation was founded.

2. Initiating, performing or fostering worthy public works or enabling or furthering the erection or maintenance of public structures.

3. Lessening the burdens borne by government or voluntarily supporting, augmenting or supplementing services which government would normally render to the people.

4. Maintaining, improving, building an addition to, repairing or retiring the debt on existing buildings and real property used for purposes enumerated in subs. 1 to 3.

(b) "Lawful purpose" does not include the erection or acquisition of any real property except as provided in par. (a) 4, unless the board specifically authorizes such expenditures after finding that the property will be used exclusively for one or more of the purposes specified in par. (a); nor does it include any activities consisting of an attempt to influence legislation or participate in any political campaign on behalf of any elected official or person who is or has been a candidate for public office.

(9) "Licensed organization" means an organization licensed under this chapter to conduct bingo.

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(10) "Limited period bingo" means the conduct of bingo for a period of not more than 4 out of 5 consecutive days in any one year at a festival, bazaar, picnic, carnival or similar special function conducted by a licensed organization.

(11) "Premises" means any room, hall, enclosure, tent or outdoor area in which bingo is being played.

(12) "Profit" means the gross receipts collected from one or more bingo occasions, less reasonable sums necessarily and actually expended for bingo supplies and equipment, prizes, utilities, license fees and taxes.

(12m) "Raffle" means a game of chance in which tickets are sold and a drawing for prizes is held.

(13) "Regular bingo card" means a nondisposable card issued to a person upon payment of the admission fee which affords a person the opportunity to participate in all regular games played at a bingo occasion.

(14) "Regular bingo game" means a bingo game in which a person, upon payment of an admission, is issued a regular bingo card and may purchase or rent extra regular cards.

(14m) "Regular raffle" means a raffle for which a single drawing for prizes is held on a specified date after the sale of tickets has been completed.

(15) "Special bingo card" means a disposable, specially marked bingo card which affords a person the opportunity to participate in a special bingo game to be played at a bingo occasion.

(16) "Special bingo game" means any bingo game which is not a regular bingo game and which is played with special bingo cards.

(17) "Special raffle" means a raffle for which one or more drawings are held and prizes awarded on the same day as the tickets are sold.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 99; 1977 c. 426; 1979 c. 32, 34

### SUBCHAPTER II

#### BINGO CONTROL BOARD

**163.04 General duties of the board.** The board shall:

(1) Hear appeals on denial of licenses by the department.

(2) Conduct hearings on the suspension or revocation of a license for violation of this chapter or any rules promulgated under it.

(3) Promulgate rules under ch. 227 relating to the issuance, renewal, amendment, suspension and revocation of bingo and raffle licenses and the conduct of bingo under this chapter.

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(4) Approve and establish a standard set of bingo cards comprising a consecutively numbered series and prescribe by rule the manner in which such cards are to be reproduced and distributed to a licensed organization.

(5) Prescribe appropriate forms necessary to carry out this chapter.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1977 c. 426; 1979 c. 34 ss. 998, 999, 2100 (45) (a); 1979 c. 154

**163.05 Department powers and duties.** The department shall:

(1) Issue, renew and amend licenses:

(a) To organizations to conduct bingo.

(b) To a supervisory member designated by the organization.

(c) To a member designated by the organization who is responsible for the gross receipts.

(2) Issue and renew licenses to suppliers of bingo supplies and equipment.

(3) Have power to temporarily suspend any license.

(4) Make recommendations to the board regarding suspensions and revocations of licenses.

(5) Refer for investigation potential or actual violations of this chapter and rules promulgated under it to the district attorney of the county in which a bingo occasion will be or was held.

(6) Make a continuous study of the operation of this chapter to ascertain if there are defects herein which jeopardize or threaten to jeopardize the purpose of this chapter; and make a continuous study of the operation and administration of similar laws which may be in effect in other states.

(7) Recommend to the board such changes in the law of this state as the department determines are necessary to carry out the purpose of this chapter.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1979 c. 34 ss. 1000, 2100 (45) (a).

**163.06 Conflict of interest prohibited.** No member of the board or employe of the department assigned duties under this chapter shall:

(1) Own, be employed by or have any pecuniary interest in any business engaged directly or indirectly in the manufacture, distribution or sale of bingo supplies and equipment, or be the spouse of or related in the first degree of kinship to any person so employed or interested.

(2) Participate in the approval, denial, revocation or suspension of any application or license for an organization of which he or she is an officer, director, shareholder or member.

(3) Engage in private employment or in a profession or business which conflicts with the performance of his or her official duties.

(4) Engage in any business, transaction or professional activity or incur any obligation of any nature which conflicts with the proper discharge of his or her official duties.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1979 c. 34.

**163.10 Rules governing commingling of receipts restricted.** Notwithstanding ss.

163.04 (3), 227.014 (2) and 227.027, the board may not adopt any emergency rule relating to the commingling of bingo and raffle receipts unless it can clearly establish that commingling will occur without such rule and that the rule will effectively prevent commingling. The board shall set forth any such finding in its rule-making order. If upon review under s. 227.05, the court finds that the finding of fact upon which any emergency rule relating to such commingling is based is unsupported by clear and convincing evidence, the rule is invalid.

History: 1979 c. 41.

**SUBCHAPTER III****LICENSING**

**163.11 License to conduct bingo.** (1) Any bona fide religious, charitable, service, fraternal or veterans' organization or any organization, other than the state or any political subdivision thereof, to which contributions are deductible, for federal or state income tax purposes, may apply to the board for a license to conduct bingo.

(2) Prior to applying for a license, an organization listed under sub. (1) shall:

(a) Be incorporated in this state as a non-profit corporation or organized in this state as a religious or nonprofit organization.

(b) Have at least 15 members in good standing.

(c) Conduct activities within this state in addition to the conduct of bingo.

(d) Be authorized by its constitution, articles, charter or bylaws to further in this state a lawful purpose.

(e) Operate without profit to its members, and no part of the net earnings of such organization shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

(f) Have been in existence for 3 years immediately preceding its application for a license, and shall have had during that 3-year period a bona fide membership actively engaged in furthering a lawful purpose.

(g) Have received and used and shall continue to receive and use, for a lawful purpose,

funds derived from sources other than from the conduct of bingo.

**History:** 1973 c. 156.

Loss of tax exempt status for income tax purposes does not necessarily imply that an organization is no longer nonprofit 67 Atty. Gen. 255.

**163.12 Bingo license application.** Each applicant for a license to conduct bingo shall file with the board an application on a form prescribed by the board. The application shall include:

- (1) The name and address of the applicant.
- (2) Sufficient facts relating to the incorporation or organization of the applicant to enable the board to determine if the applicant is eligible for a license under this subchapter.
- (3) The name and address of each officer of the applicant organization.
- (4) The place and date of each bingo occasion proposed to be conducted during the effective period of the license.
- (5) The name and address of the owner of the premises in which bingo will be conducted and the approximate capacity of the premises.
- (7) The name, date of birth and address of each supervising member for each bingo occasion who shall be a bona fide and active member of the applicant organization and of good moral character and one or more of whom shall be present and in immediate charge of and responsible for the conduct of bingo games at each bingo occasion.
- (8) The name of any licensed organization cosponsoring any bingo occasion.
- (9) The name, address, date of birth and years of membership of a bona fide and active member of the applicant organization who shall be responsible for the proper utilization of the gross receipts derived from the conduct of bingo.
- (10) The specific purposes to which the profits from the conduct of bingo are to be devoted.
- (11) Other information which the board deems necessary to administer this chapter.

**History:** 1973 c. 156; 1977 c. 418.

**163.13 Affidavits, bond and fees.** An application for a license to conduct bingo shall be accompanied by:

- (1) A sworn statement of each designated supervising member that he or she will be responsible for compliance with this chapter and rules promulgated under it for each bingo occasion supervised by the member.
- (2) A sworn statement by the member designated as responsible for the proper utilization of gross receipts that no commission, fee, rent, salary, profits, compensation, reward or recompense will be paid to any person or organization

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and that all profits will be spent for a lawful purpose.

(4) A \$10 license fee for each bingo occasion proposed to be conducted; \$5 for an annual license for each designated supervising member; and \$5 for an annual license for each designated member responsible for the proper utilization of gross receipts. The fees shall be paid to the board which shall deposit them in the state treasury.

**History:** 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 99; 1979 c. 34.

**163.14 Department determinations.** Upon receipt of an application for a license to conduct bingo, the department shall investigate the qualifications of the applicant and the merits of the application and before issuing a license shall determine that:

- (1) The applicant is eligible to be licensed to conduct bingo under s. 163.11.
- (2) The supervising member and member responsible for the proper utilization of gross receipts are bona fide and active members of the applicant organization and persons of good moral character who have never been convicted of a felony or, if convicted, have received a pardon or have been released from parole or probation for at least 5 years.
- (3) The proposed bingo occasions will be conducted in accordance with this chapter and the rules promulgated under it.
- (4) No commission, fee, rent, salary, profit, compensation, reward or recompense is or will be paid or given to any person in connection with the holding, operating or conducting of any bingo occasion, except that reasonable rent may be paid for a tent to be used at a limited period bingo occasion.
- (5) The premises in which a proposed bingo occasion will be conducted are adequate and suitable for the conduct of bingo and are owned by the applicant, another licensed organization or the public or are used by the applicant organization on a regular basis for purposes other than bingo and that no benefits of any kind are proposed to be transferred as rent for such premises, except as permitted under sub. (4).

(6) The profits from all bingo games conducted by the applicant organization are proposed to be used for a lawful purpose which is a proper objective of the applicant organization.

**History:** 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 99; 1979 c. 34 s. 2100 (45) (a).

**163.15 Issuance of license to conduct bingo.** (1) Within 60 days after the filing of an application for a license to conduct bingo, the department, after making the determinations under s. 163.14, shall either notify the applicant organization in writing why a license is not being

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issued or issue a license to such applicant organization authorizing it to conduct bingo at the times and places set forth therein. Except for limited period bingo, an applicant organization shall not be authorized to conduct or cosponsor more than 24 bingo occasions in any year or more than 2 bingo occasions in any month. An applicant organization holding a regular license may, in addition, be issued one limited period bingo license during the 12-month period from the date of issuance or renewal of such regular license. An applicant organization not holding a regular bingo license may be issued 2 limited period licenses within a 12-month period. A license issued under this subsection shall be effective for one year from the first day of the month of its issuance, and may be renewed annually.

(2) The form of the license shall be prescribed by the board and shall include:

(a) The name and address of the licensed organization.

(b) The name and address of each supervising member of the licensee under whom each bingo occasion is to be conducted.

(c) The place, date and time when each bingo occasion is to be held.

(d) The specific purposes to which the profits of each bingo occasion will be devoted.

(e) Other information which the board deems necessary to administer this chapter.

(3) Each license, and all amendments thereto, shall be conspicuously displayed at the place where a bingo occasion is conducted and at all times during the conduct thereof so as to be easily readable by any patron of the bingo occasion.

(4) Within 10 days after the issuance of a license to conduct bingo and at least 5 days prior to the first bingo occasion each year as authorized by the license, or amendments thereto, the department shall send written notice of the issuance, or amendment, of such license to the district attorney of the county in which any bingo occasion is to be conducted. The notice shall indicate the time, place and sponsoring licensed organizations for each authorized bingo occasion.

**History:** 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 99; 1979 c. 34 s. 2100 (45) (a)

**163.16 Amendment of license to conduct bingo.** Upon application by a licensed organization, a license may be amended, if the subject matter of the amendment properly and lawfully could have been included in the original license. An application for an amendment to a license shall be filed and processed in the same manner as an original application. An application for

the amendment of a license shall be accompanied by a \$3 fee. If any application for amendment seeks approval of additional bingo occasions or designates new supervising members or a member responsible for the proper utilization of gross receipts, the appropriate fee under s. 163.13 (4) also shall be paid. If the department approves an application for an amendment to a license, a copy of the amendment shall be sent to the applicant who shall attach it to the original license.

**History:** 1973 c. 156; 1979 c. 34

**163.17 Denial of application; hearing.** If the department denies a license to conduct bingo, within 10 days after receiving written notification of such denial, an applicant may demand in writing a hearing before the board upon the applicant's qualifications and the merit of the application. At the hearing, the burden of proof shall be on the applicant to establish his or her eligibility for a license. If, after the hearing, the board enters an order denying the application, the order shall set forth in detail the reasons for the denial. Upon entry of such an order or upon the expiration of the 10-day period during which a hearing may be demanded, the applicant's license fee shall be refunded less reasonable administrative costs. If the board approves the application, the department shall issue the license within 14 days after approval.

**History:** 1973 c. 156; 1979 c. 34.

**163.18 Suspension or revocation. (1)** Proceedings to suspend or revoke a supplier's license or a license to conduct bingo shall be initiated by the board in the same manner as a summons is served under ch. 801. The notice shall state the alleged violations which constitute the grounds for the proceedings. The department may temporarily suspend such license for a period of 30 days while any such proceedings are pending, and shall notify the licensee of the dates of the temporary suspension.

(2) The department shall notify an officer or agent of the licensee of the time and place of the hearing by registered mail, return receipt requested.

(3) The board shall hold a hearing on a suspension or proposed revocation as soon as practicable. The board shall issue, in writing, its findings and decision on suspension or revocation within 30 days after the hearing. A copy of the findings and decision shall be sent immediately to the licensee. If the board suspends or revokes the license, the licensee shall be informed of the effective date of such suspension or revocation. The board's decision under this

section shall be subject to judicial review under ch. 227.

(4) When a license is suspended or revoked by the board, the licensee shall immediately surrender the license to the board. A licensee whose license has been revoked may reapply for a license one year after the effective date of the revocation. If a license has been suspended under sub. (3), the department shall reinstate the license at the end of the period of suspension.

(5) A violation of any applicable law of this state or rule promulgated thereunder shall constitute grounds for suspension or revocation.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 198; 1979 c. 34 s. 2100 (45)

(a)

Board may not revoke license of an organization because of its membership policies regarding race. 67 Atty Gen 255

**163.21 Supplier's license.** Any person intending to sell or distribute bingo supplies or equipment to a licensed organization shall apply to the board for a supplier's license.

History: 1973 c. 156.

**163.22 Supplier's license application.**

(1) An application for a supplier's license shall be filed with the board on a form prescribed by the board. The application shall include:

(a) The name and address of the applicant.

(b) A designation of the type of business organization of the applicant and the date and place of its original establishment.

(c) The name and address of each officer, director, shareholder, partner or other person with an ownership interest in the applicant business.

(d) A statement showing the gross receipts realized in the preceding year on the sale or distribution of bingo supplies and equipment to licensed organizations.

(e) The name and address of any supplier of bingo supplies and equipment to the applicant.

(f) The number of years the applicant has been in the business of supplying bingo supplies and equipment.

(g) If the applicant business is organized outside of this state, the name and address of a resident agent who is authorized to be served legal documents and receive notices, orders and directives of the department or of the board.

(2) (a) Each application for an initial supplier's license or for a renewal thereof shall be accompanied by a certified copy of the price list of the applicant's bingo supplies and equipment, a fee of \$25 and by a financial responsibility bond for at least \$1,000.

(b) When the supplier's license expires, the supplier shall pay a supplementary fee based on the supplier's gross sales of bingo supplies and equipment to licensed organizations during the preceding year. The supplementary fee shall be

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determined in accordance with the following schedule:

<i>Amount of Gross Sales</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Less than \$5,000	\$10
Between \$5,000 and \$19,999	\$50
Between \$20,000 and \$49,999	\$200
Between \$50,000 and \$100,000	\$500
More than \$100,000	\$1,000

History: 1973 c. 156; 1979 c. 34.

**163.24 Issuance of supplier's license.**

Upon receiving an application for a supplier's license, the department may require the applicant, or if the applicant is a corporation or partnership, its officers, directors and stockholders, to appear and testify under oath on the contents of the application. If the department determines that the supplier's license applicant possesses the requisite qualifications, a license shall be issued to the bingo supplier. A license issued under this section shall be effective for one year from the first day of the month of its issuance, and may be renewed annually. If the application is not approved, the department shall notify the applicant in writing of such action. Within 10 days after receipt of such notification, the applicant may demand a hearing before the board. At the hearing, the burden of proof shall be on the applicant to establish his or her qualifications and the merit of the application. The fee, less reasonable administrative costs, shall be refunded to the applicant upon entry of an order denying an application after hearing, or upon expiration of the period during which a hearing may be demanded.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1979 c. 34.

**163.25 Supplier to notify board of changes.**

During the pendency of his application, an applicant for supplier's license shall immediately notify the board in writing of any change in the facts set forth in the application, including any change in any item in the application, in the organization, structure or mode of operation of the supplier's business and in the identity of persons named or required to be named in the application or the nature or extent of their interests. Within 10 days after any such change which occurs after the issuance of the license, the change shall be reported to the board. Failure to notify the board of such change shall constitute sufficient cause for denial of a pending license application or for suspension or revocation of a license which has been granted.

History: 1973 c. 156.

**163.26 Maintenance of supplier's books and records.** Each licensed supplier shall maintain his or her books and records in such

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manner as to enable the board to determine the gross sales of bingo supplies and equipment to licensed organizations.

**History:** 1973 c. 156; 1979 c. 34.

**163.27 Persons not eligible for supplier's license.** The following persons shall not be eligible for a supplier's license:

(1) A person convicted of a felony who has not received a pardon or has not been released from parole or probation for at least 5 years.

(2) A person who is or has been a professional gambler or gambling promoter or who is not of good moral character as defined in s. 139.34.

(3) A public officer or employe.

(4) A business in which a person disqualified under sub. (1), (2) or (3) is employed or active or in which a person is married or related in the first degree of kinship to such person who has an interest of more than 10% in the business.

**History:** 1973 c. 156

One who sells or rents illegal gambling devices is a promoter under (2). This section is constitutional. Wis. Bingo Sup. & Equip. Co. v. Bingo Control Bd. 88 W (2d) 293, 276 NW (2d) 716 (1979).

**163.29 Supplier prohibitions.** (1) No person shall sell or distribute bingo supplies or equipment to any licensed organization without first having obtained a supplier's license, but an organization which is or has been during the preceding 12 months, licensed to conduct bingo in this state may sell bingo supplies and equipment actually used by it in the conduct of bingo to another licensed organization.

(2) No person shall wilfully make any materially false statement in an application for a supplier's license.

(3) No licensed supplier shall sell or distribute to a licensed organization any card unless it is identified in the standard set of bingo cards prescribed by the board.

(4) No licensed supplier shall sell bingo cards unless there is printed thereon the name, mark or symbol of the printer or manufacturer which the supplier has registered with the board.

(5) No person directly or indirectly connected with the manufacture, sale or distribution of bingo supplies or equipment, and no agent, servant or employe of such person, shall conduct, advise or assist in the conduct of bingo; render any service to anyone conducting or assisting in the conduct of bingo; or prepare any form required of a licensed organization pertaining to bingo.

(6) No licensed supplier, or the authorized agent, salesperson or representative of a licensed supplier, shall, during the term of the license, sell or distribute bingo supplies or equipment to

any person or organization other than a licensed supplier or licensed organization.

(7) No licensed supplier, or the authorized agent, salesperson or representative of a licensed supplier, shall be present to transact business during the conduct of bingo.

**History:** 1973 c. 156; 1979 c. 34.

**SUBCHAPTER IV****CONDUCT OF BINGO**

**163.51 Restrictions on the conduct of bingo.** (1) **WHO CONDUCTS.** Only a person licensed under s. 163.15 shall conduct bingo.

(2) **WHERE PLAYED.** Bingo shall be played only on premises which are:

(a) Owned by a licensed organization;

(b) Publicly owned;

(c) Owned by another licensed organization;

or  
(d) Used regularly by the licensed organization for a purpose other than bingo, except that a tent that has been rented, borrowed or donated may be used at a limited period bingo occasion.

(2m) **LIMIT ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.** Not more than 54 occasions of regular bingo may be played at any one building, tent, enclosure or outdoor area in any calendar year.

(2t) **PROHIBITED PLACES.** Bingo may not be conducted at a place owned, operated or controlled by a person who has been convicted of, having operated a gambling place within the past 5 years.

(3) **WHO MAY PLAY.** Except for limited period bingo, only persons who pay for regular bingo cards may participate as a player in a regular or special bingo game.

(4) **SUFFICIENT SPACE TO PLAY.** Purchase of a regular bingo card shall entitle each player to a place with sufficient room in which to play.

(5) **ONLY CASH PAYMENT.** A licensed organization or its members or agents shall accept only cash payment for any bingo card.

(6) **TRANSPORTATION LIMITATIONS.** No licensed organization shall provide, by contract or otherwise, transportation of persons to or from the premises where bingo is conducted.

(7) **EQUIPMENT; SUPPLIES.** (a) A licensed organization shall purchase or receive bingo supplies and equipment specifically designed or adapted for use in the conduct of bingo only from a licensed supplier or another licensed organization.

(b) Any equipment used in the conduct of bingo shall be owned absolutely by the licensed organization or borrowed from another licensed organization without payment of any compensation therefor by the licensed organization.

(c) The equipment and supplies used in the conduct of bingo shall be maintained in good repair and sound condition.

(d) All objects used as markers on a regular bingo card or on an extra regular card shall be nonmetallic.

**(8) PROFITS FOR LAWFUL PURPOSES.** The profits from any bingo game shall be exclusively devoted to a lawful purpose of the licensed organization.

**(9) LIMITATION ON VALUE OF PRIZES.** No prize in a single bingo game shall exceed \$250. The aggregate value of prizes at any bingo occasion may not exceed \$1,000 except by the amount resulting from the awarding of minimum prizes under sub. (27).

**(10) PROHIBITED PRIZES.** (a) No licensed organization shall award any prize consisting of alcoholic or fermented malt beverages or an interest in real estate or securities.

(b) No bonus or additional prizes shall be awarded on the basis of either a specific arrangement of the numbers or type of card required to win a game. No prize shall be determined on the basis of a specified number of calls.

**(11) MERCHANDISE PRIZES.** If any merchandise prize is awarded in a bingo game, its value shall be its current retail price. The current retail price of merchandise prizes donated to a licensed organization shall not be reported as an expenditure in its financial statement of bingo operations. No merchandise prize shall be redeemable or convertible into cash directly or indirectly by the licensed organization.

**(12) MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF BINGO.** (a) Only a bona fide and active member of the licensed organization, or the spouse of such a member, or a bona fide and active member of the auxiliary of such organization, shall participate in the management or operation of any bingo occasion.

(b) No person shall receive remuneration for participating in the management or operation of any bingo game.

**(13) AGE LIMITATIONS.** No person under age 18 shall:

(a) Play any bingo game conducted by a licensed organization, unless accompanied by that person's parent, guardian or spouse.

(b) Conduct or assist in the conduct of bingo.

**(14) ONLY CERTAIN EXPENSES PERMITTED.** No expense shall be incurred or amounts paid in connection with the conduct of bingo by a licensed organization, except those reasonably and necessarily expended for bingo supplies and equipment, including blowers, flashboards, tables, chairs, public address systems, bingo cards, markers, filing cabinets and signs, and for

prizes, utilities, license fees and taxes, fees regularly charged by the state or a municipality for use of a public premise, printing of bingo forms and house rules, repairs to bingo equipment and bank charges related to maintaining the required account under s. 163.63 (1). At a limited period bingo occasion a licensed organization may also pay reasonable rent for a tent.

**(15) REGULAR BINGO GAME FEE.** A fee of not more than \$1 may be charged for admission to premises at which a regular bingo game is conducted. The fee entitles the person to participate, without additional charge, in all regular bingo games played at such bingo occasion, except that a fee of not more than \$1 may be charged for each extra regular card.

**(16) WINNERS AND PRIZES; SAME DAY.** Each bingo winner shall be determined and every prize shall be awarded and delivered on the same day on which the bingo occasion is conducted.

**(17) LIMITATIONS ON BINGO ADVERTISING.** The location of a bingo occasion, the time it is to be or has been conducted and prizes awarded or to be awarded shall not be advertised, except as follows:

(a) One sign, not exceeding 12 square feet in area, may be displayed on or adjacent to the premises where the bingo occasion is to be or has been conducted.

(b) A licensed organization may make an advance announcement of the bingo occasion in its regular bulletin or publication.

(c) Signs, banners, flyers and circulars advertising a bingo occasion may be printed and distributed if such advertisements are donated by a person or organization other than the sponsoring licensed organization.

(d) Any radio or television station may advertise a bingo occasion during time donated for a public service announcement.

(e) Any newspaper may list a bingo occasion in space donated for a public service announcement.

(f) A licensed organization may advertise limited period bingo in the regular advertisement of its festival, bazaar, picnic, carnival or similar special function.

**(18) SALE OF SUPPLIES, MERCHANDISE AND REFRESHMENTS.** In addition to the sale of bingo supplies by the licensed organization or the sale of food or refreshments, merchandise may be sold on the premises where bingo is conducted when authorized by the licensed organization.

**(19) BINGO CARDS; PRINTING.** Bingo cards shall be printed only on one side.

**(20) SEPARATE COUNT OF BINGO CARDS.** The licensed organization shall keep an accurate, separate count of the number of regular bingo cards, extra regular cards and special bingo



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cards which are sold, rented or used. Such information shall be available for inspection at the close of the bingo occasion.

**(21) PRICE OF BINGO CARDS.** Regular bingo cards, extra regular cards and special bingo cards shall each be assigned a specific price, and the price shall remain the same during a bingo occasion. At any time during a bingo occasion, a card may be changed at no additional cost. Cards shall be sold or rented only on the premises at which bingo is being conducted. A price list shall be posted where the regular bingo cards are distributed, setting forth the price of each type of card. Only the posted price may be charged. The regular bingo cards and the extra regular cards shall be readily distinguishable from each other.

**(22) METHOD OF PLAY.** (a) The method of play in any bingo game and the utilization of bingo equipment and supplies shall be such that each player is afforded an equal opportunity to win.

(b) The objects to be drawn shall be essentially the same in size, color, shape, weight, balance and all other characteristics, so that at all times during the conduct of bingo, each object possesses the capacity for equal agitation with any other object within the receptacle.

(c) All 75 objects shall be present in the receptacle at the beginning of each bingo game.

(d) The announcement of all numbers drawn shall be clearly audible to the players present.

(e) When more than one room is used for any one bingo game, the receptacle and the caller and any assistant shall be in the room where the greatest number of players are present; and all numbers shall be announced in a manner clearly audible to the players in each room.

(f) Once removed, no object shall be returned to the receptacle until after the conclusion of the game.

(g) Immediately following the calling of each number in a bingo game, the caller shall turn that portion of the object which shows the number and letter to the players.

**(23) NUMBER ARRANGEMENT ANNOUNCED; PRIZES ANNOUNCED AND POSTED.** The particular arrangement of numbers required to be covered in order to win and the amount of the prize for each game shall be clearly described and audibly announced to the players immediately before each game. The amount of the prize for each bingo game also shall be posted where the regular bingo cards are distributed.

**(24) VERIFICATION OF WINNER.** (a) The numbers appearing on the winning card at the time a winner is determined shall be verified in the immediate presence of at least one disinterested player.

(b) At the time a winner is determined, any player may call for a verification of all numbers and of the objects remaining in the receptacle and not yet drawn. This verification shall be made in the immediate presence of the supervising member and at least one disinterested player.

**(25) LIMIT ON NUMBER OF BINGO GAMES.** Except for limited period bingo, no licensed organization shall conduct more than 35 bingo games, including regular and special games, on a single bingo occasion.

**(26) LIMIT ON HOURS OF BINGO.** No bingo game shall commence before 7:00 a.m. or after 12 p.m.

**(27) MORE THAN ONE WINNER.** When more than one player is found to be the winner on the call of the same number in the same bingo game, a cash prize shall be divided equally, to the nearest nickel, among the winners, except that any licensed organization may elect to set a minimum prize of not exceeding \$5 for each winner. When equal division of a merchandise prize is not possible, identical substitute prizes whose aggregate retail value is approximately equal to that of the designated prize may be awarded or a cash prize equal to the retail value may be divided to the nearest nickel.

**(28) PROHIBITED FROM PLAYING.** No licensed organization shall permit any person who is conducting or assisting in the conduct of bingo on a bingo occasion to participate as a player on that occasion.

**(29) BINGO CALLER.** No person may act as a caller in the conduct of any game of bingo unless the person:

(a) Has been a member in good standing of the licensed organization for at least one year immediately before the date of such game.

(b) Is of good moral character and has never been convicted of a felony or, if convicted, has been pardoned or released from probation or parole for at least 5 years.

**History:** 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 99; 1977 c. 418; 1979 c. 34, 172.

Cable televised bingo program involving viewer participation violates this section and exposes the sponsoring organization and participating television station to prosecution under 163.54, 945.02 (3) and 945.03 (4). 65 Atty. Gen. 80.

**163.52 Limited period bingo. (1)** In this section, "licensee" means a person licensed to conduct limited period bingo.

**(3)** No licensee shall conduct more than 60 games of limited period bingo on a single bingo occasion. Limited period bingo may be conducted on 2 bingo occasions in a single day.

**(4)** No admission fee shall be charged to play limited period bingo.

(5) A fee of not more than 50 cents per game may be charged for a single card to participate in limited period bingo.

(6) All other provisions in this chapter relating to regular bingo games shall apply to limited period bingo except as otherwise provided.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 99

**163.53 Special bingo games.** In addition to provisions in this chapter relating to regular bingo games, the following provisions shall apply to special bingo games:

(1) All special bingo cards shall be in a form approved by the board.

(2) Each special bingo card shall be used for one game only and shall be indelibly marked by the player while in use so as to render it void and unusable thereafter.

(3) A fee of not more than 25 cents may be charged for each special bingo card.

(4) Not more than 3 special bingo games shall be played at each bingo occasion.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 99

**163.54 Penalties.** (1) Whoever violates s. 163.51 (1), (2), (6), (8) to (10), (12), (15), (25) or (26) may be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 9 months or both.

(2) Whoever violates any other provision of this chapter may be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 90 days or both.

(3) The department of justice or the district attorney of the county where the violation occurs may commence an action in the name of the state to recover a civil forfeiture to the state of not more than \$10,000 for the violation of any provision of this chapter.

(4) The department of justice, the board or the district attorney of a county of an actual or potential violation, after informing the department of justice, may commence an action in the circuit court in the name of the state to restrain any violation of any provision of this chapter. The court may, prior to entry of final judgment, make such an order or judgment as necessary to restore to any person any pecuniary loss suffered because of the acts or practices involved in the violation, provided proof thereof is submitted to the court. The department of justice may subpoena persons, require the production of books and other documents and request the board to exercise its authority to aid in the investigation of alleged violations of this section.

(5) This section does not apply to subch. VIII.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1977 c. 426.

**163.55 Local ordinances not permitted.** No political subdivision of this state may enact

an ordinance on the subject matter of this chapter.

History: 1973 c. 156.

## SUBCHAPTER V

### REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **163.61 Report of bingo operations.** (1)

Within 15 days after the conclusion of each bingo occasion, each licensed organization shall execute and file a report of bingo operations on a form prescribed by the board. The report shall be accompanied by the payment of the gross receipts tax due. The licensed organization shall retain a copy of the report for its permanent records. The report shall include:

(a) The name and address of each supervising member and each member responsible for the proper utilization of gross receipts.

(b) The date, hour and address of the bingo occasion.

(c) The number of games played.

(d) An itemized statement of the gross receipts from the bingo occasion, including gross receipts from sales of regular bingo cards, extra regular cards, special game cards and sale of supplies.

(e) An itemized statement of expenditures, including amounts paid for prizes, bingo supplies and equipment, license fees and other expenses.

(f) A statement showing the balance in the licensed organization's bingo account and bingo savings account and other deposits into or adjustments in the accounts since the last filing date.

(g) The name of the depository and the title and number of the account.

(2) The report shall be signed by the member responsible for the proper utilization of gross receipts for the bingo occasion.

(3) If no bingo games are held on a date when a license authorizes them to be held, a report to that effect shall be filed with the board.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 99; 1977 c. 418

**163.62 Reports improperly filed.** (1) The department may refuse to renew a license of an organization found to be delinquent in filing its financial statement or found to have filed an incomplete statement of bingo operations.

(2) If a licensed organization fails to file a financial statement of bingo operations within 5 days after notification by the department of the delinquency, the department may suspend the license, pending the filing of the financial statement.

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(3) If the financial statement filed by a licensed organization is not fully, accurately and truthfully completed, the department may refuse to renew a license or may suspend a license until such time as a statement in proper form has been filed.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1977 c. 418; 1979 c. 34 s. 2100 (45) (a).

**163.63 Bingo account. (1)** Each licensed organization shall maintain one account which shall be designated as the "bingo account" and which shall be a regular checking account. Each licensed organization may also maintain an interest-bearing account which shall be designated the "bingo savings account". All gross receipts derived from the conduct of bingo shall be deposited into the bingo account. No other receipts shall be deposited in a bingo account. Deposits shall be made within 3 days following the date of a bingo occasion. All accounts shall be maintained in a financial institution located in this state.

(2) (a) All withdrawals from the bingo account shall be by checks having preprinted consecutive numbers, signed by the duly authorized person and made payable to a specific person. Except as permitted in par. (b), no such check shall be issued payable to "cash" or to "bearer". All checks, including voided checks, shall be accounted for in the appropriate part of the financial statement of bingo operations.

(b) If more than one player is declared to be the winner on the call of the same number in the same bingo game and an equal division of the cash prize is \$5 or less for each winner, a check for the game total prize may be issued to "Cash—Game #—" and the winners paid with cash from that check.

(3) Checks drawn on the bingo account shall be for one or more of the following purposes:

(a) The payment of necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the conduct of bingo, including prizes, bingo supplies and equipment, utilities, license fees and taxes.

(b) The disbursement of profits derived from the conduct of bingo for a lawful purpose.

(c) The transfer of profits derived from the conduct of bingo into one bingo savings account pending a disbursement for a lawful purpose.

(4) The disbursement of profits on deposit in the bingo savings account for a lawful purpose shall be made by transferring the intended disbursement back into the bingo account and then withdrawing the amount as prescribed in this section.

(5) Gross receipts derived from the conduct of bingo shall not be commingled with any other funds of the licensed organization. Except as permitted by sub. (3) (b) and (c), no part of

such receipts shall be transferred to any other account maintained by the licensed organization.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1975 c. 99.

**163.64 Bookkeeping and accounts. (1)**

Each licensed organization shall maintain a single entry or double entry bookkeeping system for the purpose of recording all receipts and expenditures in connection with the conduct of bingo and the disbursement of profits derived therefrom. Such bookkeeping system shall consist of a columnar book maintained on a calendar or fiscal year basis.

(2) The columnar book, deposit books, savings account pass books, canceled checks, check books, deposit slips, bank statements and copies of financial statements of bingo operations and all other books and accounts shall be maintained for not less than 4 years and shall be available at reasonable times for examination by the board or its authorized representative. All documents supporting the entries made in the books of accounts shall be kept by the licensed organization for a period of not less than 4 years. Such documents shall include, but are not limited to, bank statements, canceled checks, deposit slips and invoices for all expenditures.

History: 1973 c. 156.

**163.66 Financial report to membership.**

(1) At least once a year, each licensed organization shall report the following information in writing to its membership regarding the bingo occasions which it has conducted:

(a) The number of bingo occasions conducted.

(b) The gross receipts.

(c) The amount of prizes paid.

(d) The net profit or loss.

(e) The disposition of profits.

(f) Any interest earned on profits deposited in interest-bearing accounts.

(g) A summary of expenses incurred.

(2) The information reported under sub. (1) shall be incorporated into the minutes or records of each licensed organization. If a licensed organization is an auxiliary or affiliate of a parent organization, a copy of the written report shall be filed with the executive officer of the parent organization and incorporated into its minutes. A copy of the financial report to the membership shall be mailed to the board within 60 days after the close of an organization's annual accounting period.

History: 1973 c. 156.

**163.68 Expenditure of bingo funds after cessation of bingo.** A licensed organization which has ceased to conduct bingo for any

reason and has unexpended bingo funds shall disburse such funds:

(1) For a lawful purpose within one year after the cessation of the conduct of bingo; or

(2) In accordance with a plan of expenditure approved in advance by the board.

History: 1973 c. 156

## SUBCHAPTER VI

### ENFORCEMENT

**163.71 Duties of the department of justice.** (1) **INVESTIGATORY PROCEEDING.** (a) Whenever the attorney general files with a circuit court commissioner a statement that the attorney general believes that a violation of this chapter has occurred, the commissioner shall issue a subpoena for any person requested or named by the attorney general. Mileage and witness fees need not be paid in advance, but only verified claims for mileage and fees which are approved by the attorney general shall be paid out of the state treasury and charged to the appropriation under s. 20.455 (1) (d) and shall be the same rates as those paid witnesses in circuit court.

(b) Testimony from persons subpoenaed under par. (a) shall be taken by a stenographic reporter and transcribed and read to or by the witness and subscribed to by the witness, unless the parties represented stipulate upon the record that the reading of the transcript of such testimony to or by the witness and his or her signature thereto are waived and that the transcript may be used with like force and effect as if read and subscribed by the witness. The attendance of the witness for the purpose of reading and subscribing to the transcript may be compelled in the same manner that his or her attendance to be examined may be compelled.

(c) The commissioner shall be entitled to the fees under s. 757.71 (2). All such fees and all other costs and expenses incident to such inquiry shall be paid out of the appropriation under s. 20.455 (1) (d).

(2) **VIOLATIONS A PUBLIC NUISANCE.** A violation of this chapter constitutes a public nuisance under ch. 823, irrespective of any criminal prosecution which may be or is commenced based on the same acts.

(3) **APPLICATION.** This section does not apply to subch. VIII.

History: 1973 c. 156; Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 753; 1977 c. 29 s. 1656 (27); 1977 c. 187 s. 135; 1977 c. 273; 1977 c. 323 s. 16; 1977 c. 426; 1979 c. 34

**163.72 Inspection for enforcement.** Any peace officer or district attorney, within their

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respective jurisdictions, or an authorized employe of the department, may, at all reasonable hours, enter the premises where a bingo occasion is being conducted and examine the books, papers and records of the licensed organization to determine if all proper taxes or fees imposed have been paid. Any refusal to permit such examination of the premises by the licensed organization, its agent or an employe or the person in charge of the premises to which the bingo license relates, constitutes sufficient grounds for the suspension or revocation of a license, and is punishable under s. 163.54 (2). In addition, such refusal constitutes sufficient grounds for any peace officer or other persons authorized under this subsection within their respective jurisdictions or authority to employ whatever reasonable action is necessary to conduct inspections permitted by this section.

History: 1973 c. 156; 1979 c. 34 s. 2100 (45) (a)

## SUBCHAPTER VII

### GROSS RECEIPTS TAX

**163.80 Gross receipts tax.** An occupational tax is imposed on those gross receipts of any licensed organization which are derived from the conduct of bingo, in the amount of 2% of such gross receipts.

History: 1973 c. 156.

## SUBCHAPTER VIII

### RAFFLES

**163.90 Qualified organizations.** Any local religious, charitable, service, fraternal or veterans organization or any organization to which contributions are deductible for federal or state income tax purposes, which has been in existence for one year immediately preceding its application for a license or which is chartered by a state or national organization which has been in existence for at least 3 years, may conduct a raffle upon receiving a license for the raffle event from the board. No other person may conduct a raffle in this state.

History: 1977 c. 426

Certain political organizations and subdivisions of the state may qualify for a raffle license. 67 Atty. Gen. 323.

**163.91 Limit.** No qualified organization under s. 163.90 may conduct more than 2 regular raffles during a year and more than one special raffle during any week.

History: 1977 c. 426.

**163.92 License.** (1) The board shall prescribe appropriate forms for the application and issuance of licenses to conduct regular raffles or

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special raffles. The license fee shall be \$5 and shall be remitted with the application. A regular raffle license shall be valid for one raffle event. A special raffle license shall be valid for 12 months. The department shall issue the license within 30 days after the filing of an application if the applicant qualifies under s. 163.90 and has not exceeded the limits of s. 163.91.

(2) Upon application by an organization licensed under this subchapter a license may be amended if the subject matter of the amendment properly and lawfully could have been included in the original license. An application for an amendment to a license shall be filed and processed in the same manner as an original application. An application for the amendment of a license shall be accompanied by a \$3 fee. An amendment may revise any of the information on the original license. If the department approves an application for an amendment to a license, a copy of the amendment shall be sent to the applicant who shall attach it to the original license.

(3) Each license, and all amendments to the license, issued under this subchapter shall be conspicuously displayed at the place where a raffle drawing is conducted and at all times during the conduct of the drawing so as to be easily readable by any patron of the raffle drawing.

(4) Proceedings to suspend or revoke a license to conduct raffles shall be initiated by the board in the same manner as a summons is served under ch. 801. The notice shall state the alleged violations which constitute the grounds for the proceedings. The department may temporarily suspend the license for a period not to exceed 2 weeks while any such proceeding is pending, and shall notify the licensee of the dates of the temporary suspension, but the period of the suspension may not extend beyond the day prior to any raffle drawing scheduled by the licensee.

History: 1977 c. 426; 1979 c. 34 s. 2100 (45) (a).

**163.93 Tickets; drawings.** (1) All regular raffle tickets shall be identical in form and include:

(a) The number of the license issued by the board.

(b) The name and address of the sponsoring organization.

(c) The price of the ticket.

(d) A place for the purchaser to enter his or her name and address.

(e) The date and place of the drawing.

(2) No raffle ticket may exceed \$5 in cost.

(3) No person may sell raffle tickets unless authorized by an organization licensed under this subchapter.

(4) Tickets for a proposed regular raffle may not be offered for sale more than 120 days preceding the raffle drawing.

(5) All raffle drawings shall be held in public.

(6) All prizes shall be awarded. The purchaser of a ticket need not be present at the drawing to win a prize.

History: 1977 c. 426

**163.94 Profits.** All profits from raffles shall inure to the organization conducting the raffles and no salaries, fees or profit shall be paid to any other organization or individual in connection with a raffle. This section does not prohibit the printing of raffle tickets or the purchase of equipment or prizes for a raffle.

History: 1977 c. 426.

**163.95 Denial of application; hearing.**

Within 10 days after receiving written notification of a denial by the department of a license to conduct a raffle, an applicant may demand in writing a hearing before the board upon the applicant's qualifications and the merit of the application. At the hearing, the burden of proof shall be on the applicant to establish eligibility for a license. If, after the hearing, the board enters an order denying the application, the order shall set forth in detail the reasons for the denial. Upon entry of such an order or upon expiration of the 10-day period during which a hearing may be demanded, the applicant's license fee shall be refunded. If the board approves the application, the department shall issue the license within 14 days after approval.

History: 1977 c. 426; 1979 c. 34.

**163.98 Financial report.** (1) Any organization which has conducted one or more raffles during the preceding calendar year shall, on or before April 15 of the current year, report the following information in writing to the board regarding the raffles which it has conducted:

(a) The number of raffles conducted.

(b) The receipts.

(c) The amount of prizes paid.

(d) The net profit or loss.

(2) If a copy of the financial report is not filed or is not fully, accurately and truthfully completed, the department may refuse to renew a license or may suspend a license until the report in proper form has been filed.

History: 1977 c. 426; 1979 c. 34 s. 2100 (45) (a).

**163.99 Penalties.** (1) Any person who violates this subchapter shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 30 days or both.

(2) The district attorney of a county of an actual or potential violation may commence an action in circuit court in the name of the state to restrain any violation of this subchapter. The court may, prior to entry of final judgment,

make such an order or judgment as necessary to restore to any person any pecuniary loss suffered because of the acts or practices involved in the violation.

**History:** 1977 c. 426; 1979 c. 34.