

STATUTES GOVERNING REMOTE CALLER BINGO AND BINGO CARD-MINDING DEVICES – AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2013

PENAL CODE – PART 1, TITLE 9

CHAPTER 9: LOTTERIES.

§ 326.3. Remote Caller Bingo; Restrictions and Requirements; Regulation; Report to the Legislature.

(a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Nonprofit organizations provide important and essential educational, philanthropic, and social services to the people of the state.

(2) One of the great strengths of California is a vibrant nonprofit sector.

(3) Nonprofit and philanthropic organizations touch the lives of every Californian through service and employment.

(4) Many of these services would not be available if nonprofit organizations did not provide them.

(5) There is a need to provide methods of fundraising to nonprofit organizations to enable them to provide these essential services.

(6) Historically, many nonprofit organizations have used charitable bingo as one of their key fundraising strategies to promote the mission of the charity.

(7) Legislation is needed to provide greater revenues for nonprofit organizations to enable them to fulfill their charitable purposes, and especially to meet their increasing social service obligations.

(8) Legislation is also needed to clarify that existing law requires that all charitable bingo must be played using a tangible card and that the only permissible electronic devices to be used by charitable bingo players are card-minding devices.

(b) Neither the prohibition on gambling in this chapter nor in Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 330) applies to any remote caller bingo game that is played or conducted in a city, county, or city and county pursuant to an ordinance enacted under Section 19 of Article IV of the California Constitution, if the ordinance allows a remote caller bingo game to be played or conducted only in accordance with this section, including the following requirements:

(1) The game may be conducted only by the following organizations:

(A) An organization that is exempted from the payment of the taxes imposed under the Corporation Tax Law by Section 23701a, 23701b, 23701d, 23701e, 23701f, 23701g, 23701k, 23701l, or 23701w of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(B) A mobilehome park association.

(C) A senior citizens' organization.

(D) Charitable organizations affiliated with a school district.

(2) The organization conducting the game shall have been incorporated or in existence for three years or more.

(3) The organization conducting the game shall be licensed pursuant to subdivision (l) of Section 326.5.

(4) The receipts of the game shall be used only for charitable purposes. The organization conducting the game shall determine the disbursement of the net receipts of the game.

(5) The operation of bingo may not be the primary purpose for which the organization is organized.

(c)(1) A city, county, or city and county may adopt an ordinance in substantially the following form to authorize remote caller bingo in accordance with the requirements of subdivision (b):

Sec. __.01. Legislative Authorization.

This chapter is adopted pursuant to Section 19 of Article IV of the California Constitution, as implemented by Sections 326.3 and 326.4 of the Penal Code.

Sec. __.02. Remote Caller Bingo Authorized.

Remote Caller Bingo may be lawfully played in the [City, County, or City and County] pursuant to the provisions of Sections 326.3 and 326.4 of the Penal Code, and this chapter, and not otherwise.

Sec. __.03. Qualified Applicants: Applicants for Licensure.

(a) The following organizations are qualified to apply to the License Official for a license to operate a bingo game if the receipts of those games are used only for charitable purposes:

(1) An organization exempt from the payment of the taxes imposed under the Corporation Tax Law by Section 23701a, 23701b, 23701d, 23701e, 23701f, 23701g, 23701k, 23701l, or 23701w of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(2) A mobilehome park association of a mobilehome park that is situated in the [City, County, or City and County].

(3) Senior citizen organizations.

(4) Charitable organizations affiliated with a school district.

(b) The application shall be in a form prescribed by the License Official and shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable filing fee in an amount determined by resolution of the [Governing Body of the City, County, or City and County] from time to time. The following documentation shall be attached to the application, as applicable:

(1) A certificate issued by the Franchise Tax Board certifying that the applicant is exempt from the payment of the taxes imposed under the Corporation Tax Law pursuant to Section 23701a, 23701b, 23701d, 23701e, 23701f, 23701g, 23701k, 23701l, or 23701w of the Revenue and Taxation Code. In lieu of a certificate issued by the Franchise Tax Board, the License Official may refer to the

Franchise Tax Board's Internet Web site to verify that the applicant is exempt from the payment of the taxes imposed under the Corporation Tax Law.

(2) Other evidence as the License Official determines is necessary to verify that the applicant is a duly organized mobilehome park association of a mobilehome park situated in the [City, County, or City and County].

Sec. __.04. License Application: Verification.

The license shall not be issued until the License Official has verified the facts stated in the application and determined that the applicant is qualified.

Sec. __.05. Annual Licenses.

A license issued pursuant to this chapter shall be valid until the end of the calendar year, at which time the license shall expire. A new license shall only be obtained upon filing a new application and payment of the license fee. The fact that a license has been issued to an applicant creates no vested right on the part of the licensee to continue to offer bingo for play. The [Governing Body of the City, County, or City and County] expressly reserves the right to amend or repeal this chapter at any time by resolution. If this chapter is repealed, all licenses issued pursuant to this chapter shall cease to be effective for any purpose on the effective date of the repealing resolution.

Sec. __.06. Conditions of Licensure.

(a) Any license issued pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to the conditions contained in Sections 326.3 and 326.4 of the Penal Code, and each licensee shall comply with the requirements of those provisions.

(b) Each license issued pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to the following additional conditions:

(1) Bingo games shall not be conducted by any licensee on more than two days during any week, except that a licensee may hold one additional game, at its election, in each calendar quarter.

(2) The licensed organization is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of this chapter and Sections 326.3 and 326.4 of the Penal Code are complied with by the organization and its officers and members. A violation of any one or more of those conditions or provisions shall constitute cause for the revocation of the organization's license. At the request of the organization, the [Governing Body of the City, County, or City and County] shall hold a public hearing before revoking any license issued pursuant to this chapter.

(3) This section shall not require a city, county, or city and county to use this model ordinance in order to authorize remote caller bingo.

(d) It is a misdemeanor for any person to receive or pay a profit, wage, or salary from any remote caller bingo game, provided that administrative, managerial, technical, financial, and security personnel employed by the organization conducting the bingo game may be paid reasonable fees for services rendered from the revenues of bingo games, as provided in subdivision (l), except that fees paid under those agreements

shall not be determined as a percentage of receipts or other revenues from, or be dependent on the outcome of, the game.

(e) A violation of subdivision (d) shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), which fine shall be deposited in the general fund of the city, county, or city and county that enacted the ordinance authorizing the remote caller bingo game. A violation of any provision of this section, other than subdivision (d), is a misdemeanor.

(f) The city, county, or city and county that enacted the ordinance authorizing the remote caller bingo game, or the Attorney General, may bring an action to enjoin a violation of this section.

(g) No minors shall be allowed to participate in any remote caller bingo game.

(h) A remote caller bingo game shall include only sites that are located within this state.

(i) An organization authorized to conduct a remote caller bingo game pursuant to subdivision (b) shall conduct the game only on property that is owned or leased by the organization, or the use of which is donated to the organization. This subdivision shall not be construed to require that the property that is owned or leased by, or the use of which is donated to, the organization be used or leased exclusively by, or donated exclusively to, that organization.

(j)(1) All remote caller bingo games shall be open to the public, and shall not be limited to the members of the authorized organization.

(2) No more than 750 players may participate in a remote caller bingo game in a single location.

(3) If the Governor or the President declares a state of emergency in response to a natural disaster or other public catastrophe occurring in California, an organization authorized to conduct remote caller bingo games may, while that declaration is in effect, conduct a remote caller bingo game pursuant to this section with more than 750 participants in a single venue if the net proceeds of the game, after deduction of prizes and overhead expenses, are donated to or expended exclusively for the relief of the victims of the disaster or catastrophe, and the organization gives, for each participating remote caller bingo site, the department and local law enforcement at least 10 days' written notice of the intent to conduct that game.

(4) For each participating remote caller bingo site, an organization authorized by the commission to conduct remote caller bingo games shall provide the department and local law enforcement with at least 30 days' advance written notice of its intent to conduct a remote caller bingo game. That notice shall include all of the following:

(A) The legal name of the organization and the address of record of the agent upon whom legal notice may be served.

(B) The locations of the caller and remote players, whether the property is owned by the organization or donated, and if donated, by whom.

(C) The name of the licensed caller and site manager.

(D) The names of administrative, managerial, technical, financial, and security personnel employed.

(E) The name of the vendor and any person or entity maintaining the equipment used to operate and transmit the game.

(F) The name of the person designated as having a fiduciary responsibility for the game pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (k).

(G) The license numbers of all persons specified in subparagraphs (A) to (F), inclusive, who are required to be licensed.

(H) A copy of the local ordinance for any city, county, or city and county in which the game will be played. The department shall post the ordinance on its Internet Web site.

(I) A copy of the license issued to the organization by the governing body of the city, county, or city and county pursuant to subdivision (b).

(k)(1) A remote caller bingo game shall be operated and staffed only by members of the authorized organization that organized it. Those members shall not receive a profit, wage, or salary from any remote caller bingo game. Only the organization authorized to conduct a remote caller bingo game shall operate that game, or participate in the promotion, supervision, or any other phase of a remote caller bingo game. Subject to subdivision (m), this subdivision shall not preclude the employment of administrative, managerial, technical, financial, or security personnel who are not members of the authorized organization at a location participating in the remote caller bingo game by the organization conducting the game. Notwithstanding any other law, exclusive or other agreements between the authorized organization and other entities or persons to provide services in the administration, management, or conduct of the game shall not be considered a violation of the prohibition against holding a legally cognizable financial interest in the conduct of the remote caller bingo game by persons or entities other than the charitable organization, or other entity authorized to conduct the remote caller bingo games, if those persons or entities obtain the gambling licenses, the key employee licenses, or the work permits required by, and otherwise comply with, Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 19800) of Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code. Fees to be paid under those agreements shall be reasonable and shall not be determined as a percentage of receipts or other revenues from, or be dependent on the outcome of, the game.

(2) An organization that conducts a remote caller bingo game shall designate a person as having fiduciary responsibility for the game.

(l) No individual, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity, except the organization authorized to conduct or participate in a remote caller bingo game, shall hold a legally cognizable financial interest in the conduct of that game.

(m) An organization authorized to conduct a remote caller bingo game pursuant to this section shall not have overhead costs exceeding 20 percent of gross sales, except that the limitations of this section shall not apply to one-time, nonrecurring capital acquisitions. For purposes of this subdivision, "overhead costs" includes, but is not limited to, amounts paid for rent and equipment leasing and the reasonable fees authorized to be paid to administrative, managerial, technical, financial, and security

personnel employed by the organization pursuant to subdivision (d). For the purpose of keeping its overhead costs below 20 percent of gross sales, an authorized organization may elect to deduct all or a portion of the fees paid to financial institutions for the use and processing of credit card sales from the amount of gross revenues awarded for prizes. In that case, the redirected fees for the use and processing of credit card sales shall not be included in "overhead costs" as defined in the California Remote Caller Bingo Act. Additionally, fees paid to financial institutions for the use and processing of credit card sales shall not be deducted from the proceeds retained by the charitable organization.

(n) A person shall not be allowed to participate in a remote caller bingo game unless the person is physically present at the time and place where the remote caller bingo game is being conducted. A person shall be deemed to be physically present at the place where the remote caller bingo game is being conducted if he or she is present at any of the locations participating in the remote caller bingo game in accordance with this section.

(o)(1) An organization shall not cosponsor a remote caller bingo game with one or more other organizations unless one of the following is true:

(A) All of the cosponsors are affiliated under the master charter or articles and bylaws of a single organization.

(B) All of the cosponsors are affiliated through an organization described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), and have the same Internal Revenue Service activity code.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a maximum of 10 unaffiliated organizations described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) may enter into an agreement to cosponsor a remote caller game, but that game shall have no more than 10 locations.

(3) An organization shall not conduct remote caller bingo more than two days per week.

(4) Before sponsoring or operating any game authorized under paragraph (1) or (2), each of the cosponsoring organizations shall have entered into a written agreement, a copy of which shall be provided to the department, setting forth how the expenses and proceeds of the game are to be allocated among the participating organizations, the bank accounts into which all receipts are to be deposited and from which all prizes are to be paid, and how game records are to be maintained and subjected to annual audit.

(p) The value of prizes awarded during the conduct of any remote caller bingo game shall not exceed 37 percent of the gross receipts for that game. When an authorized organization elects to deduct fees paid for the use and processing of credit card sales from the amount of gross revenues for that game awarded for prizes, the maximum amount of gross revenues that may be awarded for prizes shall not exceed 37 percent of the gross receipts for that game, less the amount of redirected fees paid for the use and processing of credit card sales. Every remote caller bingo game shall be played until a winner is declared. Progressive prizes are prohibited. The declared winner of a remote caller bingo game shall provide his or her identifying information and a mailing address to the onsite manager of the remote caller bingo game. Prizes shall be paid

only by check; no cash prizes shall be paid. The organization conducting the remote caller bingo game may issue a check to the winner at the time of the game, or may send a check to the declared winner by United States Postal Service certified mail, return receipt requested. All prize money exceeding state and federal exemption limits on prize money shall be subject to income tax reporting and withholding requirements under applicable state and federal laws and regulations and those reports and withholding shall be forwarded, within 10 business days, to the appropriate state or federal agency on behalf of the winner. A report shall accompany the amount withheld identifying the person on whose behalf the money is being sent. Any game interrupted by a transmission failure, electrical outage, or act of God shall be considered void in the location that was affected. A refund for a canceled game or games shall be provided to the purchasers.

(q)(1) The commission shall require the licensure of the following:

(A) Any person who contracts to conduct remote caller bingo on behalf of an organization described in subdivision (b) or who is identified as having fiduciary responsibility for the game pursuant to subdivision (k).

(B) Any person who directly or indirectly manufactures, distributes, supplies, vends, leases, or otherwise provides supplies, devices, services, or other equipment designed for use in the playing of a remote caller bingo game by any organization described in subdivision (b).

(C) Beginning January 31, 2009, or a later date as may be established by the commission, all persons described in subparagraph (A) or (B) may submit to the commission a letter of intent to submit an application for licensure. The letter shall clearly identify the principal applicant, all categories under which the application will be filed, and the names of all those particular individuals who are applying. Each charitable organization shall provide an estimate of the frequency with which it plans to conduct remote caller bingo operations, including the number of locations. The letter of intent may be withdrawn or updated at any time.

(2)(A) Background investigations related to remote caller bingo conducted by the department shall be in accordance with the Gambling Control Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 19800) of Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code) and as specified in regulations promulgated by the commission or the department.

(B) Fees to cover background investigation costs shall be paid and accounted for in accordance with Section 19867 of the Business and Professions Code.

(3) (A) Every application for a license or approval by a person described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the department and accompanied by a nonrefundable fee.

(B) Fees and revenue collected pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited in the California Bingo Fund, which is hereby created in the State Treasury. The funds deposited in the California Bingo Fund shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for expenditure by the commission and the department exclusively for the support of the commission and department in carrying out their duties and responsibilities under this section and Section 326.5.

(C) A loan is hereby authorized from the Gambling Control Fund to the California Bingo Fund on or after January 1, 2009, in an amount of up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to fund operating, personnel, and other startup costs incurred by the commission and department relating to this section. Funds from the California Bingo Fund shall be available to the commission and department upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act. The loan shall be subject to all of the following conditions:

(i) The loan shall be repaid to the Gambling Control Fund as soon as there is sufficient money in the California Bingo Fund to repay the amount loaned, but no later than July 1, 2019.

(ii) Interest on the loan shall be paid from the California Bingo Fund at the rate accruing to moneys in the Pooled Money Investment Account.

(iii) The terms and conditions of the loan are approved, prior to the transfer of funds, by the Department of Finance pursuant to appropriate fiscal standards.

The commission and department may assess and collect reasonable fees and deposits as necessary to defray the costs of regulation and oversight.

(D) Notwithstanding any other law, the loan authorized by Provision 1 of Item 0855-001-0567 of the Budget Act of 2009, in the amount of four hundred fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$457,000), shall be repaid no later than July 1, 2019.

(E) The licensing fee for any person or entity that directly or indirectly manufactures, distributes, supplies, vends, leases, or otherwise provides supplies, devices, services, or other equipment designed for use in the playing of a remote caller bingo game by any nonprofit organization shall be in an amount determined by the department, not to exceed the reasonable regulatory costs to the department and in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter. Prior to the adoption of the regulations, the nonrefundable license fee shall be the amount of the reasonable regulatory costs to the department, not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per year.

(r) The administrative, managerial, technical, financial, and security personnel employed by an organization that conducts remote caller bingo games shall apply for, obtain, and thereafter maintain valid work permits, as defined in Section 19805 of the Business and Professions Code.

(s) An organization that conducts remote caller bingo games shall retain records in connection with the remote caller bingo game for five years.

(t)(1) All equipment used for remote caller bingo shall be certified as compliant with regulations adopted by the department by a manufacturing expert recognized by the department. Certifications shall be submitted to the department prior to the use of any equipment subject to this subdivision.

(2) The department may monitor operation of the transmission and other equipment used for remote caller bingo, and monitor the game.

(u)(1) As used in this section, "remote caller bingo game" means a game of bingo, as defined in subdivision (o) of Section 326.5, in which the numbers or symbols on randomly drawn plastic balls are announced by a natural person present at the site at

which the live game is conducted, and the organization conducting the bingo game uses audio and video technology to link any of its in-state facilities for the purpose of transmitting the remote calling of a live bingo game from a single location to multiple locations owned, leased, or rented by that organization, or as described in subdivision (o) of this section. The audio or video technology used to link the facilities may include cable, Internet, satellite, broadband, or telephone technology, or any other means of electronic transmission that ensures the secure, accurate, and simultaneous transmission of the announcement of numbers or symbols in the game from the location at which the game is called by a natural person to the remote location or locations at which players may participate in the game. The drawing of each ball bearing a number or symbol by the natural person calling the game shall be visible to all players as the ball is drawn, including through a simultaneous live video feed at remote locations at which players may participate in the game.

(2) The caller in the live game must be licensed by the California Gambling Control Commission. A game may be called by a nonlicensed caller if the drawing of balls and calling of numbers or symbols by that person is observed and personally supervised by a licensed caller.

(3) Remote caller bingo games shall be played using traditional paper or other tangible bingo cards and daubers, and shall not be played by using electronic devices, except card-minding devices, as described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section 326.5.

(4) Prior to conducting a remote caller bingo game, the organization that conducts remote caller bingo shall submit to the department the controls, methodology, and standards of game play, which shall include, but not be limited to, the equipment used to select bingo numbers and create or originate cards, control or maintenance, distribution to participating locations, and distribution to players. Those controls, methodologies, and standards shall be subject to prior approval by the department, provided that the controls shall be deemed approved by the department after 90 days from the date of submission unless disapproved.

(v) A location shall not be eligible to participate in a remote caller bingo game if bingo games are conducted at that location in violation of Section 326.5 or any regulation adopted by the commission pursuant to Section 19841 of the Business and Professions Code, including, but not limited to, a location at which unlawful electronic devices are used.

(w)(1) The vendor of the equipment used in a remote caller bingo game shall have its books and records audited at least annually by an independent California certified public accountant and shall submit the results of that audit to the department within 120 days after the close of the vendor's fiscal year. In addition, the department may audit the books and records of the vendor at any time.

(2) An authorized organization that conducts remote caller bingo games shall be audited by an independent California certified public accountant at least annually and copies of the audit reports shall be provided to the department within 60 days of completion of the audit report. A city, county, or city and county shall be provided a full

copy of the audit or an audit report upon request. The audit report shall account for the annual amount of fees paid to financial institutions for the use and processing of credit card sales by the authorized organization and the amount of fees for the use and processing of credit card sales redirected from “overhead costs” and deducted from the amount of gross revenues awarded for prizes.

(3) The costs of the licensing and audits required by this section shall be borne by the person or entity required to be licensed or audited. The audit shall enumerate the receipts for remote caller bingo, the prizes disbursed, the overhead costs, and the amount retained by the nonprofit organization. The department may audit the books and records of an organization that conducts remote caller bingo games at any time.

(4) If the department identifies practices in violation of this section, the license for the audited entity may be suspended pending review and hearing before the commission for a final determination.

(x)(1) The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of this section or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if paragraph (1) or (3) of subdivision (u), or the application of either of those provisions, is held invalid, this entire section shall be invalid.

(y) The department shall submit a report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2016, on the fundraising effectiveness and regulation of remote caller bingo, and other matters that are relevant to the public interest regarding remote caller bingo.

(z) The following definitions apply for purposes of this section:

(1) “Commission” means the California Gambling Control Commission.

(2) “Department” means the Department of Justice.

(3) “Person” includes a natural person, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust, joint venture, association, or any other business organization.

(aa) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2016, and, as of January 1, 2017, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

(Amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 353, Sec. 120. Effective September 26, 2013. Operative July 1, 2013, by Sec. 129 of Ch. 353. Inoperative July 1, 2016. Repealed as of January 1, 2017, by its own provisions.)

§ 326.4. Charity Bingo Mitigation Fund.

(a) Consistent with the Legislature’s finding that card-minding devices, as described in subdivision (p) of Section 326.5, are the only permissible electronic devices to be used by charity bingo players, and in an effort to ease the transition to remote caller bingo on the part of those nonprofit organizations that, as of July 1, 2008, used electronic devices other than card-minding devices to conduct games in reliance on an ordinance of a city, county, or city and county that, as of July 1, 2008, expressly recognized the operation of electronic devices other than card-minding devices by

organizations purportedly authorized to conduct bingo in the city, county, or city and county, there is hereby created the Charity Bingo Mitigation Fund.

(b) The Charity Bingo Mitigation Fund shall be administered by the Department of Justice.

(c) Mitigation payments to be made by the Charity Bingo Mitigation Fund shall not exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in the aggregate.

(d)(1) To allow the Charity Bingo Mitigation Fund to become immediately operable, five million dollars (\$5,000,000) shall be loaned from the accrued interest in the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund to the Charity Bingo Mitigation Fund on or after January 1, 2009, to make mitigation payments to eligible nonprofit organizations. Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) of this loan amount is hereby appropriated to the California Gambling Control Commission for the purposes of providing mitigation payments to certain charitable organizations, as described in subdivision (e). Pursuant to Section 16304 of the Government Code, after three years the unexpended balance shall revert back to the Charity Bingo Mitigation Fund.

(2) To reimburse the Special Distribution Fund, those nonprofit organizations that conduct a remote caller bingo game pursuant to Section 326.3 shall pay to the Department of Justice an amount equal to 5 percent of the gross revenues of each remote caller bingo game played until that time as the full advanced amount plus interest on the loan at the rate accruing to moneys in the Pooled Money Investment Account is reimbursed.

(e)(1) An organization meeting the requirements in subdivision (a) shall be eligible to receive mitigation payments from the Charity Bingo Mitigation Fund only if the city, county, or city and county in which the organization is located maintained official records of the net revenues generated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, by the organization from the use of electronic devices or the organization maintained audited financial records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, which show the net revenues generated from the use of electronic devices.

(2) In addition, an organization applying for mitigation payments shall provide proof that its board of directors has adopted a resolution and its chief executive officer has signed a statement executed under penalty of perjury stating that, as of January 1, 2009, the organization has ceased using electronic devices other than card-minding devices, as described in subdivision (p) of Section 326.5, as a fundraising tool.

(3) Each eligible organization may apply to the California Gambling Control Commission no later than January 31, 2009, for the mitigation payments in the amount equal to net revenues from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, by filing an application, including therewith documents and other proof of eligibility, including any and all financial records documenting the organization's net revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, as the California Gambling Control Commission may require. The California Gambling Control Commission is authorized to access and examine the financial records of charities requesting funding in order to confirm the legitimacy of the request for funding. In the event that the total of those requests exceeds five million dollars (\$5,000,000), payments to all eligible applicants shall be reduced in proportion to

each requesting organization's reported or audited net revenues from the operation of electronic devices.

(Amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 353, Sec. 121. Effective September 26, 2013. Operative July 1, 2013, by Sec. 129 of Ch. 353.)

§ 326.45. Appropriation for Operating, Personnel, and Other Startup Costs.

Up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), as determined by order of the Director of Finance, is hereby appropriated from the California Bingo Fund to the California Gambling Control Commission for use in the 2008–09 fiscal year for the purposes described in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (q) of Section 326.3.

(Amended by Stats. 2009, Ch. 562, Sec. 3. Effective October 11, 2009.)

§ 326.5. Bingo Games for Charity.

(a) Neither the prohibition on gambling in this chapter nor in Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 330) applies to any bingo game that is conducted in a city, county, or city and county pursuant to an ordinance enacted under Section 19 of Article IV of the State Constitution, if the ordinance allows games to be conducted only in accordance with this section and only by organizations exempted from the payment of the bank and corporation tax by Sections 23701a, 23701b, 23701d, 23701e, 23701f, 23701g, 23701k, 23701w, and 23701l of the Revenue and Taxation Code and by mobilehome park associations, senior citizens organizations, and charitable organizations affiliated with a school district; and if the receipts of those games are used only for charitable purposes.

(b) It is a misdemeanor for any person to receive or pay a profit, wage, or salary from any bingo game authorized by Section 19 of Article IV of the State Constitution. Security personnel employed by the organization conducting the bingo game may be paid from the revenues of bingo games, as provided in subdivisions (j) and (k).

(c) A violation of subdivision (b) shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), which fine is deposited in the general fund of the city, county, or city and county that enacted the ordinance authorizing the bingo game. A violation of any provision of this section, other than subdivision (b), is a misdemeanor.

(d) The city, county, or city and county that enacted the ordinance authorizing the bingo game may bring an action to enjoin a violation of this section.

(e) Minors shall not be allowed to participate in any bingo game.

(f) An organization authorized to conduct bingo games pursuant to subdivision (a) shall conduct a bingo game only on property owned or leased by it, or property whose use is donated to the organization, and which property is used by that organization for an office or for performance of the purposes for which the organization is organized. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to require that the property owned or leased by, or whose use is donated to, the organization be used or leased exclusively by, or donated exclusively to, that organization.

(g) All bingo games shall be open to the public, not just to the members of the authorized organization.

(h) A bingo game shall be operated and staffed only by members of the authorized organization that organized it. Those members shall not receive a profit, wage, or salary from any bingo game. Only the organization authorized to conduct a bingo game shall operate such a game, or participate in the promotion, supervision, or any other phase of a bingo game. This subdivision does not preclude the employment of security personnel who are not members of the authorized organization at a bingo game by the organization conducting the game.

(i) Any individual, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity, except the organization authorized to conduct a bingo game, shall not hold a financial interest in the conduct of a bingo game.

(j) With respect to organizations exempt from payment of the bank and corporation tax by Section 23701d of the Revenue and Taxation Code, all profits derived from a bingo game shall be kept in a special fund or account and shall not be commingled with any other fund or account. Those profits shall be used only for charitable purposes.

(k) With respect to other organizations authorized to conduct bingo games pursuant to this section, all proceeds derived from a bingo game shall be kept in a special fund or account and shall not be commingled with any other fund or account. Proceeds are the receipts of bingo games conducted by organizations not within subdivision (j). Those proceeds shall be used only for charitable purposes, except as follows:

(1) The proceeds may be used for prizes.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a portion of the proceeds, not to exceed 20 percent of the proceeds before the deduction for prizes, or two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per month, whichever is less, may be used for the rental of property and for overhead, including the purchase of bingo equipment, administrative expenses, security equipment, and security personnel.

(B) For the purposes of bingo games conducted by the Lake Elsinore Elks Lodge, a portion of the proceeds, not to exceed 20 percent of the proceeds before the deduction for prizes, or three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per month, whichever is less, may be used for the rental of property and for overhead, including the purchase of bingo equipment, administrative expenses, security equipment, and security personnel. Any amount of the proceeds that is additional to that permitted under subparagraph (A), up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000), shall be used for the purpose of financing the rebuilding of the facility and the replacement of equipment that was destroyed by fire in 2007. The exception to subparagraph (A) that is provided by this subparagraph shall remain in effect only until the cost of rebuilding the facility is repaid, or January 1, 2019, whichever occurs first.

(3) The proceeds may be used to pay license fees.

(4) A city, county, or city and county that enacts an ordinance permitting bingo games may specify in the ordinance that if the monthly gross receipts from bingo games of an organization within this subdivision exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000), a minimum percentage of the proceeds shall be used only for charitable purposes not relating to the conducting of bingo games and that the balance shall be used for prizes, rental of property, overhead, administrative expenses, and payment of license fees. The

amount of proceeds used for rental of property, overhead, and administrative expenses is subject to the limitations specified in paragraph (2).

(l)(1) A city, county, or city and county may impose a license fee on each organization that it authorizes to conduct bingo games. The fee, whether for the initial license or renewal, shall not exceed fifty dollars (\$50) annually, except as provided in paragraph (2). If an application for a license is denied, one-half of any license fee paid shall be refunded to the organization.

(2) In lieu of the license fee permitted under paragraph (1), a city, county, or city and county may impose a license fee of fifty dollars (\$50) paid upon application. If an application for a license is denied, one-half of the application fee shall be refunded to the organization. An additional fee for law enforcement and public safety costs incurred by the city, county, or city and county that are directly related to bingo activities may be imposed and shall be collected monthly by the city, county, or city and county issuing the license; however, the fee shall not exceed the actual costs incurred in providing the service.

(m) A person shall not be allowed to participate in a bingo game, unless the person is physically present at the time and place where the bingo game is being conducted.

(n) The total value of prizes available to be awarded during the conduct of any bingo games shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) in cash or kind, or both, for each separate game which is held.

(o) As used in this section, "bingo" means a game of chance in which prizes are awarded on the basis of designated numbers or symbols that are marked or covered by the player on a tangible card in the player's possession and that conform to numbers or symbols, selected at random and announced by a live caller. Notwithstanding Section 330c, as used in this section, the game of bingo includes tangible cards having numbers or symbols that are concealed and preprinted in a manner providing for distribution of prizes. Electronics or video displays shall not be used in connection with the game of bingo, except in connection with the caller's drawing of numbers or symbols and the public display of that drawing, and except as provided in subdivision (p). The winning cards shall not be known prior to the game by any person participating in the playing or operation of the bingo game. All preprinted cards shall bear the legend, "for sale or use only in a bingo game authorized under California law and pursuant to local ordinance." Only a covered or marked tangible card possessed by a player and presented to an attendant may be used to claim a prize. It is the intention of the Legislature that bingo as defined in this subdivision applies exclusively to this section and shall not be applied in the construction or enforcement of any other provision of law.

(p)(1) Players who are physically present at a bingo game may use hand-held, portable card-minding devices, as described in this subdivision, to assist in monitoring the numbers or symbols announced by a live caller as those numbers or symbols are called in a live game. Card-minding devices may not be used in connection with any game where a bingo card may be sold or distributed after the start of the ball draw for that game. A card-minding device shall do all of the following:

(A) Be capable of storing in the memory of the device bingo faces of tangible cards purchased by a player.

(B) Provide a means for bingo players to input manually each individual number or symbol announced by a live caller.

(C) Compare the numbers or symbols entered by the player to the bingo faces previously stored in the memory of the device.

(D) Identify winning bingo patterns that exist on the stored bingo faces.

(2) A card-minding device shall perform no functions involving the play of the game other than those described in paragraph (1). Card-minding devices shall not do any of the following:

(A) Be capable of accepting or dispensing any coins, currency, or other representative of value or on which value has been encoded.

(B) Be capable of monitoring any bingo card face other than the faces of the tangible bingo card or cards purchased by the player for that game.

(C) Display or represent the game result through any means, including, but not limited to, video or mechanical reels or other slot machine or casino game themes, other than highlighting the winning numbers or symbols marked or covered on the tangible bingo cards or giving an audio alert that the player's card has a prize-winning pattern.

(D) Determine the outcome of any game or be physically or electronically connected to any component that determines the outcome of a game or to any other bingo equipment, including, but not limited to, the ball call station, or to any other card-minding device. No other player-operated or player-activated electronic or electromechanical device or equipment is permitted to be used in connection with a bingo game.

(3)(A) A card-minding device shall be approved in advance by the department as meeting the requirements of this section and any additional requirements stated in regulations adopted by the department. Any proposed material change to the device, including any change to the software used by the device, shall be submitted to the department and approved by the department prior to implementation.

(B) In accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 19800) of Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code, the commission shall establish reasonable criteria for, and require the licensure of, any person that directly or indirectly manufactures, distributes, supplies, vends, leases, or otherwise provides card-minding devices or other supplies, equipment, or services related to card-minding devices designed for use in the playing of bingo games by any nonprofit organization.

(C) A person or entity that supplies or services any card-minding device shall meet all licensing requirements established by the commission in regulations.

(4) The costs of any testing, certification, license, or determination required by this subdivision shall be borne by the person or entity seeking it.

(5) On and after January 1, 2010, the Department of Justice may inspect all card-minding devices at any time without notice, and may immediately prohibit the use of any device that does not comply with the requirements established by the department in

regulations. The Department of Justice may at any time, without notice, impound any device the use of which has been prohibited by the commission.

(6) The Department of Justice shall issue regulations to implement the requirements of this subdivision, and the California Gambling Control Commission may issue regulations regarding the means by which the operator of a bingo game, as required by applicable law, may offer assistance to a player with disabilities in order to enable that player to participate in a bingo game, provided that the means of providing that assistance shall not be through any electronic, electromechanical, or other device or equipment that accepts the insertion of any coin, currency, token, credit card, or other means of transmitting value, and does not constitute or is not a part of a system that constitutes a video lottery terminal, slot machine, or device prohibited by Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 330).

(7) The following definitions apply for purposes of this subdivision:

(A) "Commission" means the California Gambling Control Commission.

(B) "Department" means the Department of Justice.

(C) "Person" includes a natural person, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust, joint venture, association, or any other business organization.

(Amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 353, Sec. 122. Effective September 26, 2013. Operative July 1, 2013, by Sec. 129 of Ch. 353.)