
DIGEST

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SB 189 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Jackson

Present law provides for the operation of electronic video bingo machines, including a prohibition that an electronic video bingo machine shall not contain entertainment display features simulating slot reels or card games.

Proposed law provides that any license or permit that was issued to any location or to any distributor for the use of electronic video bingo machines on or before June 30, 2022, is a bona fide and valid license and permit under Louisiana law.

Present law provides that a licensed distributor may operate electronic video bingo machines which are not in compliance with present law under either of the following circumstances:

- (1) The licensed distributor has purchased or entered into a lease agreement for the total number of electronic video bingo machines to be operated at a specific location on or prior to August 15, 2008.
- (2) The licensed distributor has delivered to the office of charitable gaming (office) or sent by certified mail an application and fees to have machines permitted which has been received and not approved on or prior to August 15, 2008, and the application includes either a proof of purchase or a nonrefundable deposit.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that electronic video bingo machines authorized by present law may only be placed at the following two locations:

- (1) A location approved by the office on or prior to August 15, 2008.
- (2) A location for which a completed application with the required fees for the licensing to conduct charitable gaming at a specific location has been received by the office of charitable gaming on or prior to August 15, 2008, and which has received final approval from the office and was occupied by August 15, 2009.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law prohibits the office from issuing any license or permit to any location or to any distributor for use of electronic video bingo machines after June 30, 2022.

Proposed law provides that if any location, where electronic or video bingo machines are validly licensed or permitted on or before June 30, 2022, to operate is damaged or destroyed due to an occurrence that is an act of God, natural disaster, force majeure, catastrophic event, action by a governmental body, or a similar occurrence over which the licensee or permittee has no reasonable control, the office may allow electronic or video bingo machines to operate at the same physical location.

Proposed law allows for the transfer of a location license and an electronic video bingo machine license.

Proposed law provides that the office shall not issue any new license or permit after June 30, 2022, for the placement of electronic or video bingo machines within one mile from property on the National Register of Historic Places, public playgrounds, residential property, or any building used primarily as a church, synagogue, public library, or school.

Proposed law does not apply to either of the following:

- (1) Locations that are damaged or destroyed due to an act of God, natural disaster, force majeure, catastrophic event, or action by a governmental body.
- (2) Any location licensed to conduct electronic video bingo on or before June 30, 2022.

Proposed law provides for a definition of "residential property".

Effective July 1, 2023.

(Amends R.S. 4:724(J); Adds R.S. 4:724(L), (M), and (N))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Provides for the validity of licenses for location and electronic video bingo machines issued before June 30, 2022.
2. Removes provisions relative to licensed distributors and the operation of electronic video machines that were not in compliance and provides for licensing requirements of distributors.
3. Removes references to deadline dates for submission of applications for licensure and approval of applications.
4. Provides that if the legislature amends law to add new licenses, the office of charitable gaming shall not issue a license or permit after June 30, 2022, that would allow any electronic video bingo machine to be placed within one mile of certain places and provides for exceptions to the one-mile radius.
5. Defines residential property.
6. Provides that if a location, where electronic video bingo machines are validly licensed or permitted to operate is damaged or destroyed due to certain events, the office may allow such machines to operate at the same physical location.
7. Provides for the transfer of a location license and electronic video bingo machines license.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Clarifies that the validity of licenses for location and electronic video bingo machines issued on or before June 30, 2022 remains, rather than just before June 30, 2022.
2. Removed all provisions relative to obtaining permits or licenses for locations or distributors of electronic video bingo machines.
3. Adds provision prohibiting the office from issuing any license or permit to any location or to any distributor for use of electronic video bingo machines after June 30, 2022.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the reengrossed bill:

1. Prohibit the office of charitable gaming from issuing any new license or permit after June 30, 2022, for the placement of electronic or video bingo machines within one mile from property on the National Register of Historic Places, public playgrounds, residential property, or any building used primarily as a church, synagogue, public library, or school.
2. Provide that the proposed law placement of electronic or video bingo machines does not apply to the following:
 - (a) Locations that are damaged or destroyed due to an act of God, natural disaster, force majeure, catastrophic event, or action by a governmental body.
 - (b) Any location licensed to conduct electronic video bingo on or before June 30, 2022.
3. Define "residential property".