

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 188

BY SENATOR JOHNS

GAMING. Provides relative to Charitable Gaming. (8/1/16)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 4:707(F)(3), 732(A), (B), (C), (D), the introductory paragraph of (E), and (G), and 739(A) and (F), relative to the Charitable Raffles, Bingo, and Keno Licensing law; to provide for progressive mega jackpot bingo; to provide for licensing exceptions; to provide for the use of Electric Bingo Card Dabber Devices; to provide for contributions to jackpots; to provide for the adoption of rules and regulations; to provide for compliance with agency rules and regulations; to allow the use of an Electric Bingo Card Dabber Device system; to allow for the tracking of accounts and credits through certain systems; to provide for accounting functions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 4:707(F)(3), 732(A), (B), (C), (D), the introductory paragraph of (E), and (G), and 739(A) and (F) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§707. Authorization to license certain organizations; exemption; requirement for state license

	*	*	*
F.(1)(a)	*	*	*

1 (3) A charitable organization, upon application to the **office, and if required,**  
 2 **the** municipality or parish, shall be exempt from the licensing and reporting  
 3 requirements provided in R.S. 4:708 through 716 of this Chapter for the purpose of  
 4 conducting a raffle as defined in Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section in any municipality  
 5 or parish the governing authority of which has decided to permit raffles, bingo, and  
 6 keno within its limits as provided in R.S. 4:706, provided the **office, and if required,**  
 7 **the** municipality or parish finds, upon such application, that the charitable  
 8 organization is conducting such raffle for the purpose of providing support to any  
 9 elementary or secondary school in the municipality or parish or for other purposes  
 10 of community support.

11 \* \* \*

12 §732. Progressive bingo

13 A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, **the office, and if**  
 14 **required,** the governing authority of any parish or municipality may permit any  
 15 charitable licensed organization to conduct progressive **or progressive** mega jackpot  
 16 bingo games. For the purpose of conducting a progressive **or progressive mega**  
 17 **jackpot** bingo game, such organizations shall:

18 (1) Establish links or networks, electronic or otherwise, **on an Electric Bingo**  
 19 **Card Dabber Device "EBCDD" and related system,** between locations,  
 20 commercial or noncommercial, where licensed charitable bingo games are being  
 21 conducted.

22 (2) ~~Deposit~~ **For a progressive bingo game, deposit** a predetermined amount  
 23 of money not to exceed two hundred dollars per organization into a special account  
 24 before each licensed call bingo gaming session. ~~Every two-hundred-dollar~~  
 25 ~~contribution shall constitute part of the total amount of prizes awarded during that~~  
 26 ~~session~~ **All contributions to a progressive bingo jackpot shall not constitute part**  
 27 **of the total amount of prizes awarded during that session.**

28 (3) **For progressive mega jackpot bingo, any contributions deposited**  
 29 **before each gaming session shall not constitute part of the total amount of prizes**

1           **awarded during that session.**

2           B. The mega jackpot for a progressive bingo game played pursuant to and in  
3 accordance with the provisions of this Section may exceed the limit established in  
4 R.S. 4:714 but shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars. **Portions of players'**  
5 **contributions to progressive mega jackpot games may be used for consolation**  
6 **prizes or to contribute to progressive mega jackpot prize pools and shall not be**  
7 **considered part of the limit established in R.S. 4:714(B).**

8           C. ~~Such game~~ **If required, such games** shall be offered in accordance with  
9 rules and regulations adopted by the governing authority of each municipality or the  
10 parish which issued a license to any respective organization which participates in a  
11 progressive mega jackpot bingo game, **and** in accordance with the rules and  
12 regulations adopted by the office in Subsection D of this Section.

13           D. The office shall adopt rules and regulations governing progressive **bingo**  
14 **and progressive** mega jackpot bingo games to insure compliance with the provisions  
15 of this Chapter and any additional regulations of the state relative to charitable  
16 gaming laws.

17           E. Any licensed charitable organization or organizations playing at the same  
18 location may conduct progressive ~~blackout~~ bingo games in accordance with rules  
19 established and in effect on August 15, 1995, and as follows:

20   \*       \*       \*

21           G. Organizations may network or link together, **including through the use**  
22 **of an EBCDD and related systems,** to conduct progressive mega jackpot bingo  
23 games, as provided in Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section, provided the local governing  
24 authority of each parish has authorized the conducting of such games in the parish.

25   \*       \*       \*

26           §739. Use of electronic bingo card dabber devices

27           A.(1) Electronic bingo card dabber devices, hereafter referred to as electronic  
28 dabber devices, and defined in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, for the public  
29 playing of bingo, **progressive bingo, or progressive mega jackpot bingo** may be

1 made available at any location licensed under the provisions of this Chapter provided  
2 that all requirements of this Section and all requirements of this Chapter not in  
3 conflict with this Section are met.

4 (2) "Electronic Bingo Card Dabber Device", or "Electronic Dabber Device",  
5 or "EBCDD" means an electronic device used by a bingo player to monitor bingo  
6 cards purchased and electronically mark bingo cards downloaded into the device, at  
7 the time and place of the licensed charitable bingo session, and which:

8 \* \* \*

9 (e) Will not accept coins, currency, or tokens to activate play. **Nothing**  
10 **herein shall prohibit the EBCDD and related systems from tracking a player's**  
11 **account and credits.**

12 (f) **Provide a means for all accounting functions related to bingo,**  
13 **progressive bingo, or progressive mega jackpot bingo games.**

14 \* \* \*

15 F. The office shall adopt any additional rules and regulations necessary to  
16 govern the specifications, use, and operation of electronic dabber devices **and their**  
17 **related systems** and shall establish a list of manufacturers, distributors, and suppliers  
18 authorized to provide electronic dabber devices or a list of acceptable models of the  
19 devices, acceptable serial numbers on such models, or manufacturers, distributors,  
20 or suppliers.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ashley E. Menou

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Present law provides exceptions to the licensing and reporting requirement for certain charitable organizations under certain conditions. Present law exempts charitable organizations from reporting and licensing requirements if, after application to the municipality or parish, it is determined the gaming is done for the purpose of providing support to any elementary or secondary school in the municipality or parish or for other purposes of community support.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that a charitable organization seeking exemption of licensing and reporting requirements because the gaming is for the benefit of a school must submit an application to the Office of Charitable Gaming and, if applicable, the municipality or parish.

Present law permits the governing authority of a parish or municipality to permit any charitable licensed organization to conduct progressive or mega jackpot bingo games and establish networks or links between gaming locations.

Proposed law retains present law and allows the Office of Charitable Gaming to also permit organizations to conduct progressive mega jackpot bingo games and utilize electric bingo card dabber devices and related systems to connect gaming locations.

Present law requires a predetermined amount, not to exceed \$200, be deposited by the organization into a special account before each bingo gaming session, and be part of the total amount of prizes awarded during that session.

Proposed law provides that only for a progressive bingo game, a deposit in a predetermined amount, not exceeding \$200, must be deposited into a special account prior to a bingo game and all contributions to a progressive bingo jackpot will not be considered part of the total amount of prizes awarded during the session.

Proposed law allows portions of players' contributions to progressive mega jackpot games to be used for consolation prizes or to contribute to progressive mega jackpot prize pools. Proposed law further provides that such contributions are not to be considered part of the \$4,500 limit established in present law.

Present law requires that progressive bingo games be conducted in compliance with rules and regulations adopted by the municipality or parish which issued the license. Present law also requires the Office of Charitable Gaming to adopt rules and regulations governing progressive bingo games and compliance with the applicable laws.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that the Office of Charitable Gaming will also adopt rules and regulations governing progressive bingo games and all progressive bingo, and bingo games be conducted in accordance with any local rule or regulation and with all rules and regulations adopted by the office.

Present law provides that any licensed charitable organization playing at the same location may conduct progressive blackout bingo games in accordance with rules and:

- (1) Offer a second progressive bingo game.
- (2) May establish a maximum jackpot or cap for each progressive bingo game offered by the organization. Provides that the participating organizations may continue contributions to the Charitable Gaming Progressive Jackpot Account to accumulate a backup jackpot which may be applied to either or both progressive games.
- (3) Must continuously and conspicuously display the dollar amount of each jackpot cap along with the current dollar amount of the progressive jackpot.
- (4) May add to any call bingo game played during a bingo session progressive jackpot game.
- (5) During the course of a progressive jackpot and prior to a jackpot win, may raise but not lower the jackpot cap. Provides that in the event the jackpot cap is raised, contributions in the amount of \$200 per game recommence.

Proposed law deletes requirement that the progressive game be a blackout, but otherwise retains present law.

Present law allows licensed organizations to network or link together to conduct progressive mega jackpot bingo games with authorization from the local governing authority.

Proposed law retains present law and allows licensed organizations to also use an Electronic Bingo Card Dabber Device (EBCDD) and related systems to conduct progressive mega jackpot bingo.

Present law allows for EBCDD to be used for bingo games.

Proposed law allows EBCDD to also be used for progressive bingo and progressive mega jackpot bingo.

Present law defines EBCDD, in part, as an electronic device which will not accept coins, currency, or tokens to activate play.

Proposed law retains present law, and adds that nothing shall prohibit the EBCDD and related systems from tracking a player's account and credits or providing a means for all accounting functions related to bingo, progressive bingo, or progressive mega jackpot bingo.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Amends R.S. 4:707(F)(3), 732(A), (B), (C), (D), (E)(intro para), and (G), and 739(A) and (F))