

LEGISLATIVE BILL 602A

Approved by the Governor April 20, 1982

Introduced by Cullan, 49

AN ACT to amend sections 9-127, 9-161, and 9-163, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, relating to bingo; to redefine a term; to change certain playing card requirements; to change provisions relating to the manner in which bingo games are conducted; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 9-127, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, be amended to read as follows:

9-127. Bingo shall mean that form of gambling in which:

(1) The winning chances are determined by a random drawing of a subset of numbered objects numbered, lettered, or otherwise designated by some medium among a total set of seventy-five numbered objects consecutively numbered from one to seventy-five numbered, lettered, or otherwise designated by some medium; and

(2) The card or cards held by the player by which a winner or winners are ascertained is sold, rented, or used only at the time and place of the gambling activity, and each card contains five rows of five spaces each, each space printed with a number between one and seventy-five, inclusive, except the central space, which is marked FREE.

Sec. 2. That section 9-161, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, be amended to read as follows:

9-161. (1) Any number of cards may be purchased by a licensed organization and sold or rented to players at any bingo occasion. Each card in use by the organization at any bingo occasion shall differ from all others in use with respect to the distribution of playing numbers.

(2) The twenty-five playing spaces on a regular bingo card and an extra regular card shall be contained within an area not less than four inches square. The twenty-five playing spaces on a special bingo card shall be contained within an area not less than three inches square.

Sec. 3. That section 9-163, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, be amended to read as follows:

9-163. Bingo games shall be conducted in the following manner:

(1) All bingo cards used in a regular bingo game shall be purchased at a price established before the start of the regular bingo session;

(2) At any bingo occasion except limited period bingo, any player buying or renting an extra regular card is entitled to use such card in all regular games conducted after he or she buys or rents the card;

(3) Each person admitted to a bingo occasion, other than limited period bingo, is furnished with a regular bingo card enabling him or her to play in all regular bingo games conducted at such bingo occasion;

(4) The value of any merchandise prize awarded in a bingo game 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;

(5) The licensed organization shall keep an accurate, separate count of the number of regular bingo cards, extra regular cards, and special bingo cards which are sold, rented, or used. Such information shall be available for inspection at the close of the bingo occasion;

(6) 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 seventy-five objects within the total set from which the drawing is to be made shall be present in the receptacle at the beginning of each bingo game;

(d) The announcement of all numbers objects 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, letters, or other designators 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; and

(g) The receptacle and the caller shall be visible to the majority of players at all times;

(7) The particular arrangement of numbers, letters, or other designators 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;

(8) Verification of winner:

(a) The numbers, letters, or other designators appearing on the winning card at the time a winner is determined shall be verified in such a manner that all present can hear; and

(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;

(9) When more than one player is found to be the winner on the call of the same number, letter, or other designator in the same bingo game, a cash prize shall be divided equally, to the nearest nickel, among the winners. 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 shall be awarded; and

(10) 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.

Sec. 4. That original sections 9-127, 9-161, and 9-163, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1980, are repealed.

Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act shall be in full force and take effect, from and after its passage and approval, according to law.