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HOUSE BILL 1877

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Clements, Conway, Radcliff, Scott, Mitchell, Wood and Ericksen

Read first time 02/09/1999. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to electronic bingo; amending RCW 9.46.0205; and  
2 adding a new section to chapter 9.46 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9.46 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 "Electronic bingo" means an instate networked bingo game utilized  
7 by licensed charitable and nonprofit organizations that conduct and  
8 have conducted traditional, nonelectronic "bingo" for a period of at  
9 least twelve consecutive months prior to utilizing electronic bingo,  
10 and in which a minimum of two players participating in licensed bingo  
11 locations compete against players in the same or other licensed bingo  
12 locations for prizes awarded on the basis of achieving a bingo. A  
13 bingo is achieved by matching and daubing designated numbers or symbols  
14 on electronic or computer generated bingo cards to corresponding  
15 numbers or symbols that have been selected at random from either a  
16 manual bingo ball blower or an approved electronic number generator.  
17 In adopting rules for this activity, the commission shall not limit  
18 electronic bingo to current bingo technology, but shall allow  
19 charitable and nonprofit organizations to use electronic, computer, or

1 other modern technological aids to increase player participation and  
2 enhance profitability for those organizations utilizing this activity.  
3 Electronic bingo shall not include the use of stand-alone or networked  
4 player terminals or other electronic devices that allow for individual  
5 play against such terminals or devices. Such terminals or devices  
6 shall be deemed to be unauthorized gambling devices subject to the  
7 penalties set forth under RCW 9.46.231. Electronic bingo shall not be  
8 utilized by any charitable, nonprofit organization that does not  
9 conduct traditional, nonelectronic bingo.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9.46.0205 and 1987 c 4 s 3 are each amended to read as  
11 follows:

12 "Bingo," as used in this chapter, includes "electronic bingo," as  
13 defined in this chapter, and means a game conducted only in the county  
14 within which the organization is principally located in which prizes  
15 are awarded on the basis of designated numbers or symbols on a card  
16 conforming to numbers or symbols selected at random and in which no  
17 cards are sold except at the time and place of said game, when said  
18 game is conducted by a bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization  
19 which does not conduct or allow its premises to be used for conducting  
20 bingo, except for electronic bingo, on more than three occasions per  
21 week and which does not conduct bingo in any location which is used for  
22 conducting bingo on more than three occasions per week, or if an  
23 agricultural fair authorized under chapters 15.76 and 36.37 RCW, which  
24 does not conduct bingo on more than twelve consecutive days in any  
25 calendar year, and except in the case of any agricultural fair as  
26 authorized under chapters 15.76 and 36.37 RCW, and except for  
27 electronic bingo, no person other than a bona fide member or an  
28 employee of said organization takes any part in the management or  
29 operation of said game, and no person who takes any part in the  
30 management or operation of said game takes any part in the management  
31 or operation of any game conducted by any other organization or any  
32 other branch of the same organization, unless approved by the  
33 commission, and no part of the proceeds thereof inure to the benefit of  
34 any person other than the organization conducting said game. For the  
35 purposes of this section, the organization shall be deemed to be  
36 principally located in the county within which it has its primary  
37 business office. If the organization has no business office, the  
38 organization shall be deemed to be located in the county of principal

1 residence of its chief executive officer(~~(:— PROVIDED, That any~~  
2 ~~organization which is conducting any licensed and established bingo~~  
3 ~~game in any locale as of January 1, 1981, shall be exempt from the~~  
4 ~~requirement that such game be conducted in the county in which the~~  
5 ~~organization is principally located))).~~

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