
SENATE BILL 5565

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators McCune, Boehnke, Fortunato, Holy, J. Wilson, Dozier, Torres, and Harris

1 AN ACT Relating to permitting senior-focused groups to engage in
2 certain bingo gambling activities; and amending RCW 9.46.0209 and
3 9.46.0321.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 9.46.0209 and 2021 c 176 s 5202 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) "Bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization," as used
8 in this chapter, means:

9 (i) Any organization duly existing under the provisions of
10 chapter 24.12, 24.20, or 24.28 RCW, any agricultural fair authorized
11 under the provisions of chapter 15.76 or 36.37 RCW, or any nonprofit
12 corporation duly existing under the provisions of chapter 19.09 or
13 24.03A RCW for charitable, benevolent, eleemosynary, educational,
14 civic, patriotic, political, religious, scientific, social,
15 fraternal, athletic, or agricultural purposes only, or any nonprofit
16 organization, whether incorporated or otherwise, when found by the
17 commission to be organized and operating for one or more of the
18 aforesaid purposes only, all of which in the opinion of the
19 commission have been organized and are operated primarily for
20 purposes other than the operation of gambling activities authorized
21 under this chapter; or

1 (ii) Any corporation which has been incorporated under Title 36
2 U.S.C. and whose principal purposes are to furnish volunteer aid to
3 members of the armed forces of the United States and also to carry on
4 a system of national and international relief and to apply the same
5 in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire,
6 floods, and other national calamities and to devise and carry on
7 measures for preventing the same.

8 (b) An organization defined under (a) of this subsection must:

9 (i) Have been organized and continuously operating for at least
10 twelve calendar months immediately preceding making application for
11 any license to operate a gambling activity, or the operation of any
12 gambling activity authorized by this chapter for which no license is
13 required; and

14 (ii) Demonstrate to the commission that it has made significant
15 progress toward the accomplishment of the purposes of the
16 organization during the twelve consecutive month period preceding the
17 date of application for a license or license renewal. The fact that
18 contributions to an organization do not qualify for charitable
19 contribution deduction purposes or that the organization is not
20 otherwise exempt from payment of federal income taxes pursuant to the
21 internal revenue code of 1954, as amended, shall constitute prima
22 facie evidence that the organization is not a bona fide charitable or
23 nonprofit organization for the purposes of this section.

24 (c) Any person, association or organization which pays its
25 employees, including members, compensation other than is reasonable
26 therefor under the local prevailing wage scale shall be deemed paying
27 compensation based in part or whole upon receipts relating to
28 gambling activities authorized under this chapter and shall not be a
29 bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization for the purposes of
30 this chapter.

31 (2) For the purposes of RCW 9.46.0315 and 9.46.110, a bona fide
32 nonprofit organization can be licensed by the commission and
33 includes:

34 (a) A credit union organized and operating under state or federal
35 law. All revenue less prizes and expenses received from raffles
36 conducted by credit unions must be devoted to purposes authorized
37 under this section for charitable and nonprofit organizations; and

38 (b) A group of executive branch state employees that:

1 (i) Has requested and received revocable approval from the
2 agency's chief executive official, or such official's designee, to
3 conduct one or more raffles in compliance with this section;

4 (ii) Conducts a raffle solely to raise funds for either the state
5 combined fund drive, created under RCW 41.04.033; an entity approved
6 to receive funds from the state combined fund drive; or a charitable
7 or benevolent entity, including but not limited to a person or family
8 in need, as determined by a majority vote of the approved group of
9 employees. No person or other entity may receive compensation in any
10 form from the group for services rendered in support of this purpose;

11 (iii) Promptly provides such information about the group's
12 receipts, expenditures, and other activities as the agency's chief
13 executive official or designee may periodically require, and
14 otherwise complies with this section and RCW 9.46.0315; and

15 (iv) Limits the participation in the raffle such that raffle
16 tickets are sold only to, and winners are determined only from, the
17 employees of the agency.

18 (3) For the purposes of RCW 9.46.0277, a bona fide nonprofit
19 organization also includes a county, city, or town, provided that all
20 revenue less prizes and expenses from raffles conducted by the
21 county, city, or town must be used for community activities or
22 tourism promotion activities.

23 (4) For the purposes of bingo operated under RCW 9.46.0321, a
24 bona fide nonprofit organization also includes a senior center,
25 senior housing organization, senior living center, or a senior living
26 community where the minimum age to reside in the community is 55
27 years of age.

28 **Sec. 2.** RCW 9.46.0321 and 1987 c 4 s 28 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 Bona fide charitable or bona fide nonprofit organizations
31 organized primarily for purposes other than the conduct of such
32 activities are hereby authorized to conduct bingo, raffles, and
33 amusement games, without obtaining a license to do so from the
34 commission but only when:

35 (1) Such activities are held in accordance with all other
36 requirements of this chapter, other applicable laws, and rules of the
37 commission;

38 (2) ~~((Said))~~ (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection,
39 said activities are, alone or in any combination, conducted no more

1 than twice each calendar year and over a period of no more than
2 twelve consecutive days each time, notwithstanding the limitations of
3 RCW 9.46.0205: PROVIDED, That a raffle conducted under this
4 subsection may be conducted for a period longer than twelve days;

5 (b) A senior center, senior housing organization, senior living
6 center, or a senior living community where the minimum age to reside
7 in the community is 55 years of age may conduct a bingo game once
8 each week;

9 (3) Only bona fide members of that organization, who are not paid
10 for such services, participate in the management or operation of the
11 activities;

12 ((Gross)) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection,
13 gross revenues to the organization from all the activities together
14 do not exceed five thousand dollars during any calendar year;

15 (b) Gross revenues to a senior center, senior housing
16 organization, senior living center, or a senior living community
17 where the minimum age to reside in the community is 55 years of age
18 from bingo do not exceed \$10,000 during any calendar year;

19 (5) All revenue therefrom, after deducting the cost of prizes and
20 other expenses of the activity, is devoted solely to the purposes for
21 which the organization qualifies as a bona fide charitable or
22 nonprofit organization;

23 (6) The organization gives notice at least five days in advance
24 of the conduct of any of the activities to the local police agency of
25 the jurisdiction within which the activities are to be conducted of
26 the organization's intent to conduct the activities, the location of
27 the activities, and the date or dates they will be conducted; and

28 (7) The organization conducting the activities maintains records
29 for a period of one year from the date of the event which accurately
30 show at a minimum the gross revenue from each activity, details of
31 the expenses of conducting the activities, and details of the uses to
32 which the gross revenue therefrom is put.

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