

ACM Legislative Update/ALERT 4.3.09



Call To Action

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Please note that we are using 2 different mailing lists (ACM's and the State's Charitable Gambling Organization list) for this IMPORTANT ACM Mailer so you may receive multiple copies. Please pass extra copies on to interested parties

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Proudly Serving Charitable Gambling Organizations Throughout Minnesota

Important!

Important!!

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Dear Charitable Gambling Industry,

Please note that this is probably the most important Legislative Update/ALERT that ACM will send out this year (and maybe this decade).

The 2009 Lawful Gambling Study issued by the Gambling Control Board in January emphasized the need to make changes in our taxes, expenses, and to enhance our revenues by updating our games electronically. We are making great progress on dealing with our expense issues, but are being stymied on our electronic bingo initiative, which in turn doesn't allow us to move forward on our tax reduction and reform package because we don't have the corresponding tax offsets that enhancing our revenues with electronic bingo would give us.

Unfortunately Charitable Gambling organizations have run into a major roadblock in the Minnesota State Senate in our efforts to keep Charitable Gambling viable in Minnesota communities across the state. While the Senate State and Local Government Operations and Oversight Committee did hear **SF 1284 Gambling Control Board's 2009 Charitable Gambling Policy Bill**, and passed it to the Senate Judiciary Committee (hearing on 4/2/09), they have been unwilling to hear **SF 1875 ACM's 2009 Electronic Bingo Bill**.

All three House companion bills crafted to help us were heard in the various House policy committees and are very much in play in the appropriate House Tax or Finance Committees or on the House floor.

While we appreciate the efforts put forth by the Gambling Control Board in their policy bill, without all three elements of our package ... expense reform, enhanced revenues with electronic bingo, and tax reduction and reform, our industry will likely continue its downward slide.

Unfortunately, we believed all was going fairly well until the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa came out in opposition to **ACM's 2009 Electronic Bingo Bill**. **It seems hard to believe that the concerns of one tribe are more important than the worthy programs and projects Minnesota's 1,300 licensed Charitable Gambling organizations support throughout the great state of Minnesota.**

Next week the Legislature is taking its annual Legislative Recess (April 8-13). We are asking that you and your Charitable Gambling organization & company members & employees contact YOUR Minnesota State Senator at home and ask them to please hear and pass **SF 1875 ACM's 2009 Electronic Bingo Bill**. We need to mount a massive grass roots lobbying effort at this time if we want to see **SF 1875 passed into law this year**. If your organization is in a leased site please ask your lessor & lessors employees to also contact their Minnesota State Senator. *I don't need to tell you that our electronic bingo legislation is crucial to the survival of our industry and the hospitality industry.*

If you are unable to reach your Minnesota State Senator at home during the Legislative Recess please contact their St. Paul Legislative office ASAP. If you are not sure who YOUR Senator is see the **Know YOUR Local Legislators! info on the back**. If you know who YOUR Senator is but need contact information go to the ACM web site (alliedcharitiesmn.org) and click on MN Legislator Contact Info, then Minnesota Senate Member Contact Info. Senator local contact info is at the bottom of each Member Page (click on your Senators Name).

Respectfully,

King Wilson

Executive Director

P.S. - If haven't had an opportunity to see a stationary electronic bingo device we have a video demo on our web site. Go to alliedcharitiesmn.org and click on Electronic Bingo Demo in the yellow box.

Sample Phone Message - Contact YOUR Minnesota State Senator during Legislative Recess!

*Hello, this is (your name) of the (name of organization/company). We would appreciate Senator (last name) doing everything possible to ensure that **SF 1875 ACM's 2009 Electronic Bingo Bill** is heard and passed by the Minnesota Senate during the 2009 Legislative Session. Thank You!*



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IMPORTANT

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Legislative Recess - Great Opportunity To Contact Senators

***Special Note:** The Minnesota Legislature will have a Passover/Easter Recess from Wednesday, April 8, 2009 until Monday, April 13, 2009. No floor sessions or committee hearings will be held during the Legislative Recess. Legislative offices, however, will be open each day with the exception of Friday, April 3, 2009.*

As most Legislators will be home during this break we strongly encourage ALL Charitable Gambling organization & company members & employees to contact their Minnesota State Senator at home with

the following message:

Please do everything possible to ensure that SF 1875 ACM's 2009 Electronic Bingo Bill is heard and passed by the Minnesota Senate during the 2009 Legislative Session.

At the very least we need the CEO & Gambling Manager of EVERY licensed Charitable Gambling organization to contact their Minnesota State Senator. Please take the time to contact YOUR Minnesota State Senator during the Legislative Recess. THANKS!!!

Know YOUR Local Legislators!

Go to the Minnesota State Legislature web site www.leg.state.mn.us and enter your address, city, state, and zip code in the box under Who Represents Me?

Use the Minnesota District Finder at www.gis.leg.mn/mapserver/districts to retrieve a list of your representatives with contact information.

House Public Information Services - Call House Information for assistance with finding your representative and senator.
Phone: (651) 296-2146 or 1 (800) 657-3550 TTY: (651) 296-9896

Senate Information Office - Call Senate Information for help in identifying your representative and senator.
Phone: (651) 296-0504 or (651) 296-2887

(Please note local contact information is listed under Biographical Information/Details at the bottom of each Member Page)