

Minnesota Gambling Control Board

Summary of 2015 Legislation

Bingo

- Clarifies that bar bingo is for licensed on-sale locations. Allows a licensed organization, with consent from a licensed organization already conducting another form of lawful gambling at the site, to conduct bar bingo at the site without having to conduct another form of gambling itself. (349.12, subd. 3c; 349.17, subd. 7) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Defines “hot-ball bingo prize” as an additional prize awarded for a winning bingo face for which the last bingo number called in the bingo game matches a previously designated bingo number announced to all players immediately prior to the beginning of the bingo game or occasion. Requires that all players participating in a bingo game where there is a hot-ball bingo prize be eligible for that prize at no additional cost. Sets a \$500 limit on hot-ball bingo prizes. (349.12, subd. 21a; 349.211, subd. 2) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)
- Permits bingo cards, sheets, and facsimiles to include two numbers in each space. (349.17, subd. 5) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)
- Allows for a bingo win based on only a 3-ball pattern (with the exception of cover-none). (349.17, subd. 6) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)
- Removes the two-day restriction on the number of bingo occasions each week at a nursing home, senior living residence, or by a senior citizen organization, and allows residents’ guests to play. (349.166, subd. 1) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Allows a bingo prize of \$200 or more to be delivered within three business days, minimizing cash exposure. (349.17, subd. 3) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Removes the \$300 prize contribution limit for linked bingo games played with an electronic bingo device. Extends the 85% limit on gross receipts prize pool contribution to all linked bingo games. (349.211, subd. 1a) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)
- Clarifies that progressive bingo prizes may start at up to \$500 and increase each game. (349.211, subd. 2) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Extends the cover-all bingo game prize limit to also include cover-none games. Defines a cover-none game as a bingo game where a player does not cover any numbered spaces to win. (349.211, subd. 1) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)
- Designates disposable sealed bingo number selection placards as disposable gambling equipment. Requires serial and form number and state symbol on disposable sealed bingo number selection placards. (349.163, subd. 5a) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)

Raffles

- Defines continuation raffle as a raffle where winning entries from a drawing continue to another raffle drawing until final winning entries are determined. There is no extra cost beyond the initial cost to enter the first raffle drawing. Sales stop at the first drawing, and reporting occurs the date of the first drawing. The time period for continuation raffles cannot exceed 12 months. (349.12, subd. 8a) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)
- Prohibits more than one exempt or excluded organization from taking part in the same raffle. Clarifies that exempted or excluded organizations may not combine the use of raffle tickets. Prohibits raffle tickets from being attached to or combined with other raffle tickets, with minor exceptions such as fishing tournaments and membership events, and requires the tickets to be sold separately from other exempted or excluded organizations’ raffle tickets. (349.166, subd. 2) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)

- Allows raffle prizes to be “visibly displayed” at the one-day event rather than listed on the raffle ticket to accommodate last-minute donation of prizes. Clarifies that for raffles in conjunction with wild game or fishing contests, organizations must have the appropriate DNR permit in addition to obtaining Board authorization. (349.173) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948) (*duplicative provision in S.F. 229/H.F. 374*)
- Allows organizations to conduct a raffle in conjunction with an organization membership event once each calendar year. (349.173) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/ H.F. 948)
- Raffle boards are defined as gambling equipment and as having up to 200 squares, and participants write their names to indicate entry in the raffle. Raffle boards must be manufactured as approved by the Board. Requires bar code, serial number, and state symbol on raffle boards. Prohibits alteration of raffle boards by anyone other than the manufacturer. Provides for raffle board standards. (349.12, *subd. 12 and 18*; 349.163, *subd. 8a*) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)

Electronics

- Clarifies that electronic linked bingo and electronic pull-tab games may occur only at on-sale liquor locations approved by the Board. (349.17, *subd. 9*) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Defines application software for electronic game systems as disposable gambling equipment. (349.12, *subd. 18*) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Clarifies that software applications are proprietary for electronic pull-tab or electronic bingo games and are not required to be provided to a licensed distributor. (349.163, *subd. 9*) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Eliminates player registration requirement for electronic device use. Prize receipts required for cash-out of \$600 or more. (349.17, *subd. 9*; 349.1721, *subd. 4*) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948) (*duplicative provision in S.F. 229/H.F. 374*)
- Allows a licensed organization, with consent from a licensed organization already selling paper pull-tabs at the site, to conduct electronic gaming at a site without having to conduct another form of gambling itself. (349.1721, *subd. 4*) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)

Tipboards

- Allows tipboard placards to contain more than one seal, winning number, and symbol. Increases the ticket limit per game from 32 to 100 for requiring signature from players who have a ticket with one or more predesignated numbers or symbols. (349.1711, *subd. 1*) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)
- Requires tipboard seals to be opened only by an employee or a volunteer of the organization selling the game but allows players to select which seal is opened if the placard has more than one seal. (349.1711, *subd. 2*) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/ H.F. 374)

Conduct

- Requires prize receipts for cashing out an electronic linked bingo device or an electronic pull-tab device with \$600 or more in credits. Other than for prize receipts, organizations are not required to register players using electronic devices. (349.17, *subd. 9*; 349.1721, *subd. 4*) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948) (*duplicative provision in S.F. 229/ H.F. 374*)
- Deposits for electronic gambling net receipts at a premises are required when the total net receipts reach \$2,000 or on or before the first day of the next month, whichever comes first. (349.19, *subd. 2*) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Allows licensing of merged organizations. If at least one of the organizations has an active license, the new organization will be considered to have been in existence for the most recent three years. (349.16, *subd. 2a*) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948) (*duplicative provision in S.F. 229/H.F. 374*)

- Requires that state gambling taxes and regulatory fees, like all other lawful gambling expenditures, be reported to the Gambling Control Board on a cash basis (in the month they're paid rather than the month they were incurred). For example, taxes and fees based on July's receipts that are paid in August will be listed on the August report to the Board. (349.19, subd. 5) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Includes late filing of required monthly Board reports as a reason for summary suspension action. (349.1641) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Off-site permit restrictions removed. No longer limited to county fairs, the State Fair, church festivals, or civic celebrations. (349.165, subd. 5) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Requires organizations to include all audits and compliance reports in meeting minutes, not just state agency audits. (349.19, subd. 11) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)
- Removes the "accounting manual" requirement from statute (repeals 349.19, subd. 9b). (The *Lawful Gambling Manual* remains available and updated annually.) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)

Employees/Volunteers

- Allows a volunteer conducting small (meat) raffles to participate/play in charitable gambling the next business day. An employee or volunteer involved with the conduct of electronic linked bingo, pull-tabs, tipboards with more than 32 numbers, or paddlewheels with a table at a site now only has to wait two weeks after ceasing their involvement before being allowed to participate in these games at that site (was six weeks). Restrictions on who may play electronic linked bingo were changed to the same restrictions for electronic pull-tabs. (349.181, subd. 3) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Allows an employee of a lessor to be compensated by an organization for the conduct of gambling at sites not owned by the lessor. (349.168, subd. 8) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)

Manufacturers, Linked Bingo Game Providers, Distributors

- Allows manufacturers and linked bingo game providers to provide gambling organizations with promotional materials, provided that the value of the material does not exceed \$250 per year. The promotional material is limited to those items not normally purchased by the lessor of the premises in the lessor's business. (349.163, subd. 3a; 349.1635, subd. 4) **Effective 5/19/15.** (S.F. 229/H.F. 374)
- Requires termination plans for manufacturers, linked bingo game providers, and distributors. (349.161, subd. 9; 349.163, subd. 10; 349.1635, subd. 6) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)
- Changes required pricing report filing to required filing of actual sales and discounts. (349.169) **Effective 7/1/15.** (S.F. 634/H.F. 948)

Fees

- The regulatory fee increased from 0.1% to 0.125%, effective July 1, 2015.
- Distributor licenses increased from \$6,000 to \$7,000, and apply to distributor licenses with an effective date of July 1, 2015, or later.
- Distributor salesperson licenses increased from \$100 to \$150, and apply to distributor salesperson licenses with an effective date of July 1, 2015, or later.
- Manufacturer licenses increased from \$9,000 to \$10,000, and apply to manufacturer licenses with an effective date of July 1, 2015, or later.
- Game testing fees increased from \$25 to \$30 for games submitted for approval, and from \$100 to \$125 for gambling equipment testing, and applies to games submitted for approval on July 1, 2015, or later.
- Exempt permit fees increased by \$50, and applies to all permits with an effective date of July 1, 2015, or later.

(S.F. 888)