

OHIO LEGISLATION 2010

On June 4, 2010, Amended Substitute HB 519, was passed and includes several changes to Ohio's Charitable Gaming Laws contained in Ohio Revised Code 2915. These changes are highlighted below and become effective by September 10, 2010. The Office of the Ohio Attorney General stated that they would be notifying all licensees in writing prior to the effective date regarding these changes.

- **Veteran's Organization** – Definition changed to eliminate additional 2 year continuous existence in Ohio requirement.
- **Fraternal Organization** – Definition changed to eliminate additional 5 year continuous existence in Ohio requirement.
- **Raffle** – Definition changed to say that it “Does not include the drawing of a ticket stub or other detachable section of a ticket purchased to attend a professional sporting event if both of the following apply:
 1. The ticket stub or other detachable section is used to select the winner of the free prize given away at the professional sporting event; and
 2. The cost of the ticket is the same as the cost of a ticket to the professional sporting event on days when no free prize is given away.”
- **Expenses** - Definition is changed to include payment of real property taxes and assessments that are levied on a premises on which bingo is conducted.
- **Festivals** – Charitable Organizations cannot lease premises for festivals from fraternal and veteran's organizations if the veteran's or fraternal organization has already leased their premises 12 (instead of 4) times during the preceding year to charitable organizations for that purpose.
- **Payment methods** – Distributors may accept payment for supplies by check OR electronic funds transfer.
- **Equipment** – Charitable organizations are now allowed to own equipment, lease equipment from a licensed charitable organization OR lease equipment “from the landlord of a premises where bingo is conducted”. However, Bingo Supplies, including instant ticket machines and devices for selecting or displaying the combination of bingo numbers, can only be purchased by a licensed organization from a licensed distributor.
- **Bingo Locations** – A person that is not a charitable organization can lease premises it owns, leases, or otherwise is empowered to lease to up to 3 (instead of 1) charitable organizations per calendar week for conducting bingo sessions on the premises. No more than 9 (instead of 2) bingo sessions can be conducted on any premises in any calendar week.
- **Bingo Sessions and Payout** – A charitable organization can conduct 3 bingo sessions in any 7 day period and can pay out up to \$6000 in prizes for bingo games.
- **Instant Tickets in place of cash prize** – Charitable Organizations can give any person an instant bingo ticket as a prize “in place of a cash prize won by a participant in an instant bingo game. In no case shall an instant bingo ticket or card be sold or provide for a price different from the price printed on it by the manufacturer on either the instant bingo ticket or card or on the game flare.”
- **Instant Bingo Ticket Dispensers** – Charitable Organizations can now purchase, lease and use instant ticket dispensers to sell instant bingo tickets or cards.
- **Instant Bingo Net Profit Distribution** – For veteran's, fraternal or sporting organizations, 25% of the first \$250,000 (instead of \$150,000) is to be distributed to a charitable organization, and for the net profits from instant bingo exceeding \$250,000 (instead of \$150,000), minimum of 50% shall be distributed to a charitable organization.