

Good afternoon all.

Legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 228 which substantially revamped the Bingo and Raffle Act. As such, you, as licensee's are being made aware that effective July 1, 2009 the following is the highlighted version as to what becomes the NEW parts of the Act;

One of the first changes is the requirement that a "qualified organization" must have been in existence for a minimum of two consecutive years prior to application. All of you are okay, and will only affect any new Lodges that we may get. (The old law was three years)

The life of licenses and permits. New law allows for a three year license to operate and three years work permits. (Old law was two years.)

Also, they relaxed the work permit requirements in that employees are no longer required to be members of the licensed organization. This law does NOT APPLY to Bingo Managers and Alternate Bingo Manager who are REQUIRED to be bona fide members of the organization they are permitted to work for.

The limit on the aggregate amount of bingo prize per occasion of \$1,500.00 has been increased to \$2,500.00. Also increased is the amount of the prize reporting threshold. Now the prize of \$600.00 or more requires that the licensee report the winner's name and address to the Board.

To create greater flexibility for licensees to operate in the number of occasions permitted is up from two per day to three and days of operations are up from five per week to six but the restriction of no more than 260 occasions per year remains.

Significant change is the rate and calculation of the Bingo and Raffle Tax. This tax is now calculated on the gross receipts verse the net and has been lowered from three percent (3%) to one half percent (0.5%). In addition the tax is now reported and paid quarterly versus monthly.

A change for that affects licensed and non-licensed events pertains to Raffles. Any raffle with prize greater than \$75,000.00 must begin with notification to the Board ten days prior to commencing and must report the winner's names, phones and addresses at the conclusion.

There are not all of the most changes but are the ones that are most significant. Before conducting any game of chance authorized by the New Mexico Bingo and Raffle Act, there is a high recommendation from them that you read and understand the law and consult with an attorney if in question.

Hope this helps you, give me a call or an e-mail if you have questions.

Fraternally,

Robert A. Guillen PSP
NMEA Government Relations Chairman