REPORT OF THE

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE GENERAL LAWS COMMITTEES ON THE BINGO LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

TO

THE GOVERNOR

AND

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 39

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF PURCHASES AND SUPPLY
RICHMOND
1979

MEMBERS OF JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE

Delegate Ralph L. Axselle, Jr., Chairman Delegate Robert S. Bloxom
Delegate James S. Christian
Senator Charles J. Colgan
Senator Virgil H. Goode, Jr.
Delegate Glenn B. McClanan
Senator Wiley F. Mitchell
Delegate James B. Murray
Senator Stanley C. Walker

STAFF

Administrative and Clerical

Office of Clerk, House of Delegates

Legal and Research

Division of Legislative Services

John W. Daniel, II, Staff Attorney

Report of the

Joint Subcommittee of the House and Senate General Laws

Committees on the Bingo Laws of the Commonwealth

To

The Governor and the General Assembly of Virginia

Richmond, Virginia

March, 1979

To: Honorable John N. Dalton, Governor of Virginia

and

The General Assembly of Virginia

I. INTRODUCTION.

The following resolution was passed at the 1978 Session of the General Assembly and requested a joint subcommittee make a comprehensive study of the bingo laws of the Commonwealth.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 115

Requesting a Joint Subcommittee composed of members of the Committees on General Laws of the House of Delegates and Senate to conduct a joint study of the bingo laws of the Commonwealth.

WHEREAS, the operation of bingo games by charitable organizations was legalized by the General Assembly in nineteen hundred seventy-three; and

WHEREAS, since such enactment, the General Assembly has received numerous requests for alterations and adjustments of the bingo laws; and

WHEREAS, the conduct of bingo games in the Commonwealth presently involves many people, both as players and as operators, and involves also considerable sums of money; and

WHEREAS, the number of people and amounts of money involved in bingo games is increasing; and

WHEREAS, the operation of bingo games by charitable organizations results in considerable revenues being raised by such organizations for charitable purposes; and

WHEREAS, periodic complaints about certain irregularities in the conduct of bingo games are coming before local governing bodies and before the General Assembly with increasingly distressing frequency; and

WHEREAS, it is highly desirable that any difficulties or inconsistencies in the bingo laws be expeditiously remedied by the General Assembly in the interest of those organizations which scrupulously conduct proper bingo games for charitable purposes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a Joint Subcommittee composed of members of the Committees on General Laws of the House of Delegates and the Senate is requested to undertake a comprehensive study of the bingo laws of the Commonwealth.

The Joint Subcommittee shall, upon completion of its study, submit for the consideration of the General Assembly such legislation as shall appear desirable.

Prior to the formal commencement of the deliberations of the Subcommittee, staff had surveyed all localities throughout the Commonwealth requesting relevant information in regard to existing bingo games; including the number of permit holders, frequency of play and amounts of gross receipts and disbursements. Approximately 68% of the cities, 62% of the counties and 32% of the towns reponded. Based on these percentages, it was predicted that approximately 1200 organizations across the State conduct bingo games and that gross receipts approached 50 million dollars.

That background information prompted the joint subcommittee to hold six meetings. Three of those meetings were public hearings each of which was attended by in excess of 100 people representing a wide diversity of organizations.

II. Initial Concerns.

Several factors became paramout concerns from the onset of the subcommittee's work. Among those were the extremely large amount of money being exchanged in connection with the playing of bingo and the significant lack of uniformity from one jurisdiction to another in regard to the overall control of bingo operations. The subcommittee discussed inconsistencies ranging from the procedure utilized in obtaining an initial permit to the method employed to conduct games, and from the records of receipts to the reports of disbursements.

It is felt that the looseness with which § 18.2-335 of the Code of Virginia (Bingo Laws) was drafted is a primary cause of the lack of unformity and the essentially unregulated exchange of large amounts of money.

III. Findings.

The joint subcommittee finds that despite the wording of § 18.2-335 of the Code of Virginia which is subject to abuse and violation, that the large number of organizations conducting bingo games do so within the spirit and intent of the law. However, a small percentage of organizations have taken advantage of the lack of regulation regarding bingo games and have utilized the statute to attain personal benefit which necessitates this study and the legislation attached hereto as Appendix I.

The specific findings of the joint subcommittee are numerous. The joint subcommittee is concerned with an individual organizations frequency of play, as well as the frequency of bingo operations at any one location. The lack of uniformity in both applying for bingo permits as well as the reporting of gross receipts and disbursements was a major point of concern. The subcommittee finds that such an unsystematic approach is inadequate to control possible violations.

In regard to "instant bingo" the subcommittee is split as to whether its benefits override the burdens and potential for abuse. However, the subcommittee does recognize the advantage to smaller organizations as the result of the playing of "instant bingo." The joint subcommittee finds that with the addition of sufficient guidelines for the conduct of instant bingo that its existence should be continued.

The joint subcommittee finds that the lack of working definitions associated with the conduct of bingo games creates a potential for abuse and misunderstandig on the part of both organizations and supervising localities and, therefore, recommends the attached legislation incorporating needed definitions.

Also of concern to the joint subcommittee is the enforcement of violations. The current statute provides that violations will constitute a class one misdemeanor. The subcommittee feels that the

vast majority of violations are sufficiently punished by the penalties established. However, the subcommittee finds that those violations which involve any intent to defraud an organization or local officials should be dealt with more severely and thus warrant treatment as a felony.

In regard to the appropriate local official who is to be responsible for performing the requisite audit, the subcommittee finds that the duties associated therewith are of a varying nature than those generally delegated to a Commissioner of Accounts. However, given the lack of any other such official which all localities have access to, the subcommittee feels that the Commissionor of Accounts should be utilized to perform such audits, in the event that a locality should choose not to designate an official from their own employ.

Given the necessity to utilize the office the Commissioner of Accounts, as well as the complexity of a thorough audit in regard to bingo proceeds and disbursements, the subcommittee finds that the locality or the Commissioner of Accounts, whoever is to perform the audit should necessarily be compensated for such services and that such fee should be based on a percentage of the gross receipts of an organization.

As an ancillary element to the subcommittee's finding and concern with regard to large amounts of money which exchange hands in connection with the conduct of bingo games, the subcommittee feels that a limitation of prizes is warranted. Continuing "jackpots" in excess of \$10,000 create an extremely competitive atmosphere among those organizations conducting bingo games. It is impossible for the smaller organizations to compete on such large scales and thus the intent of the legislature that bingo should be available as a fund raising activity for all charitable organizations is severely thwarted. Therefore, the subcommittee finds that a necessity exists for a uniform limitation of the size of prizes that my be offered.

IV. Recommendations.

The subcommittee recommends that the current bingo law be repealed and that the conduct of bingo games should be controlled by the establishment of a separate article in the Code of Virginia.

The joint subcommittee also recommends that such an article should include working definitions of such terms as bingo, organization, instant bingo and raffle. The procedure for obtaining a permit to conduct bingo games and for the reporting of gross receipts and disbursements should be more formal than has existed in the past and uniform forms containing specified information should be required.

The joint subcommittee make the following recommendations with regard to the conduct of bingo games. Organizations should be limited to the conduct of bingo to two days per week and the playing of bingo at any one location should be limited to three times in any one week.

A majority of the joint subcommittee recommends that instant bingo should be permitted on a local option basis, but that its playing should be limited to being a part of any regular bingo game and that it should be conducted only at such times as a regular bingo game is in progress and only at such location as is specified in the bingo permit application. The joint subcommittee recommends that localities be given the authority to adopt ordinances which would prohibit the playing of instant bingo.

The joint subcommittee strongly recommends that the attached legislation be introduced in the 1979 Session of the General Assembly to implement these recommendations and to resolve a great many of the inconsistencies and to address those areas of concern which have arisen as the result of this study. The legislative recommendations attached hereto are based on the overall finding of the joint subcommittee that the great majority of organizations that currently conduct bingo games, do so well within the purview of the existing statute and that the legislation will not substantially affect such organizations but will rather produce a more uniform and consistent operation of a large Statewide activity.

Respectfully submitted,

Delegate Ralph L. Axselle, Jr., Chairman

Delegate Robert S. Bloxom

Delegate James S. Christian

Senator Charles J. Colgan

*Senator Virgil H. Goode, Jr.

Delegate Glenn B. McClanan

*Senator Wiley F. Mitchell

Delegate James B. Murray

Senator Stanley C. Walker

Statement of Senator Virgil H. Goode, Jr.

To the Joint Subcommittee Study Bingo Laws

I agree with the overall thrust of the Bingo Report.

*Senator Virgil H. Goode, Jr.

Dissenting Statement of Senator Wiley F. Mitchell, Jr.

To the Joint Subcommittee Studying Bingo Laws

Instant Bingo, which has been aptly described as "a slot machine in a cardboard box," cannot in my judgement be effectively controlled. The operation is so simple, the potential profits so enormous and opportunities for abuse and fraud so obvious, that continuation of the practice is in my judgement practically a guarantee of further trouble.

The bill recommended by the Committee is a good bill and although I do not believe that the dangers inherent in Instant Bingo can be effectively curtailed by permitting it on a local option basis, I do believe that the remaining portions of the bill are urgently needed and that a local option provision on Instant Bingo is infinitely better than the wide-open provisions of the present law.

*Senator Wiley F. Mitchell, Jr.

Findings of Senator Wiley F. Mitchell, Jr.

Bingo in Virginia is big business, with gross receipts in 1978 alone estimated to be in excess of \$50,000,000. At least one sponsoring organization is grossing well over \$1,000,000, and there are several in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range. Despite the huge sums of money involved, controls are lax; accurate accounting depends more on the integrity of the sponsor than on the requirements of the law; and opportunities for fraud, abuse and outright theft abound.

The joint subcommittee finds that despite the weak and ambiguous wording of § 18.2-335 of the Code of Virginia many of the organizations conducting bingo games do so within both the spirit and intent of the law. However, a significant percentage of individuals and organizations have taken advantage of the lack of regulation regarding bingo games.

In addition to cases of outright fraud where funds have been diverted or misappropriated from the legitimate charitable purposes for which they were intended, hundreds of thousands of dollars have gone into the pockets of private promoters. In case after case which has come to the attention of the subcommittee, private entrepreneurs have rented and outfitted bingo halls with elaborate electronic equipment and then actually solicitated sponsors from among eligible local organizations.

In many such cases, the original idea to sponsor bingo games came not from the sponsorsing organization but from the private promoter. In the best of cases, the promoters collect very high rents (typically from \$300 to \$400 per session for up to 9 sessions per week in a facility accommodating from 300 to 500 people,) and enjoy very high rates of return on their investments. In the worst cases, the promoters have actually operated the games with paid personnel and have turned over to the sponsors only a small portion of the actual reciepts. For the most part, localities have had neither the power nor the resources to control the abuse.

In its examination of bingo operations throughout Virginia, the subcommittee was impressed with the almost total absence of uniform procedures governing the issuance of permits, the keeping of records, and the content of reports. The subcommittee has therefore recommended a uniform set of standards, which have been incorporated into a set of forms designed to guarantee that certain specified information will be provided in every case.

One of the most vexing and persistent problems discovered by the subcommittee is the confusion fostered by the current law concerning the permitted use of bingo proceeds. The Attorney General has written several opinions in an effort to clarify the law, but the result has been an anomaly - an organization legally authorized to sponsor bingo games may not be legally authorized to use any of the proceeds for its own functions. The subcommittee has attempted to resolve this problem in such a way as to make it clear that an organization permitted to sponsor games is also permitted to use the proceeds for its own functions and purposes.

For many reasons, including the large sums of money generated and the proliferation of fulltime commercial-type operations, the joint subcommittee is concerned with the number of times that individual organizations are permitted to play bingo as well as the frequency of bingo operations at any one location. The subcommittee believes that if bingo is to serve its original charitable purposes without having serious and dangerous side effects, the scope and size of permitted operations must be strictly limited.

The failure of the present statutes to define the game of bingo has provided operators with massive loop-holes and law enforcement personnel with a legal maze. Many games played regularly throughout Virginia, usually characterized a "specials" bear only a remote resemblance to what most people know as bingo. Several such games are nothing more than a variation of the old "numbers" games. If we are to control the potential spread of this form of gambling, the game of bingo must be clearly defined.

So-call "instant bingo" - which is also poorly defined in the present law - has presented a particularly perplexing problem and the subcommittee is split as to whether its benefits override the burdens and potential for abuse. The subcommittee recognizes that instant bingo is very popular and very profitable, and many sponsoring organizations have testified that it would not be financially worthwhile to sponsor bingo games without instant bingo. The majority of the subcommittee believes that with a clear definition and the addition of sufficient guidelines, instant bingo should be continued on a local option basis.

Also of concern to the joint subcommittee is the enforcement of violations. The current statute provides that violations will constitute a class one misdemeanor. The subcommittee feels that the vast majority of violations are sufficiently punished by the penalties established. However, the subcommittee finds that those violations which involve any intent to defraud an organization or local officials should be dealt with more severely and thus warrant treatment as a felony.

In regard to the appropriate local official who is to be responsible for performing the requisite audit, the subcommittee finds that the duties associated therewith are not of the type generally assigned to the Commissioner of Accounts. Therefore, the subcommittee feels that the Commissioner of Accounts should be given the responsibility for receiving and auditing bingo reports only in the event that a locality fails to designate some other local official to do this job.

In view of the complexity of a thorough audit of bingo proceeds and disbursements and the extreme importance of the audit in insuring games which are clear of the taint of fraud, the subcommittee feels that the locality or the Commission of Accounts or whoever is to perform the audit must be provided with financial resources adequate to do the job. The subcommittee feels that this cost should be borne by the sponsoring organizations through the assessment of a fee based on a percentage of the gross receipts of bingo.

As a reflection of its concern over the large amounts of money which change hands during bingo games, the subcommittee feels that a limitation of prizes is warranted. Currently, there is no limit on the size of prices and jackport of \$10,000 and more are not uncommon. Because only large, commercial-type organizations can afford to pay such substantial prizes, and because the large prizes attract large crowds, many smaller sponsors are being squeezed out of their large competitors. The church which sponsors a bingo game once a week finds that it has lost its players to the 7 nights a week competitor down the street. It is impossible for the smaller organizations to compete on such large scales and thus the intent of the legislature that bingo should be a small-scale fund raising activity available to all is severely thwarted. The subcommittee accorrdingly recommends that the size of prizes be limited.

APPENDIX I

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-334.2 and to add in Chapter 8 of Title 18.2 an article numbered 1.1, consisting of sections numbered 18.2-340.1 through 18.2-340.12, and to repeal § 18.2-335 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the conduct of bingo games; penalties.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

- 1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 18.2-334.2 and by adding in Chapter 8 of Title 18.2 an article numbered 1.1, consisting of sections numbered 18.2-340.1 through 18.2-340.11, as follows:
- § 18.2-334.2. Same; bingo games and raffles conducted by certain organizations.—Nothing in this article shall apply to any bingo game or raffle conducted in accordance with Article 1.1 of Chapter 8 (§ 18.2-340.1 et seq.) of Title 18.2.

Article 1.1.

Bingo and Raffles.

- § 18.2-340.1. Definitions.—The following words shall have the following meanings:
- 1. "Organization" means any one of the following:
- (a) A voluntary fire department or rescue squad or auxiliary unit thereof which has been recognized by an ordinance or resolution of the political subdivision where the voluntary fire department or rescue squad is located as being a part of the safety program of such political subdivision.
- (b) An organization operated exclusively for religious, charitable, community or educational purposes; an association of war veterans or auxiliary units thereof organized in the United States, or a fraternal association operating under the lodge system.
- 2. "Bingo" means a specific game of chance played with individual cards having randomly numbered squares ranging from one to seventy-five, in which prizes are awarded on the basis of designated numbers on such cards conforming to a predetermined pattern of numbers selected at random. Such cards shall have five vertical rows headed respectively by the letters B.I.N.G.O., with each row having five randomly numbered squares.
- 3. "Raffle" means a lottery in which the prize is won by a random drawing of the name or prearranged number of one or more persons purchasing chances.
- 4. "Instant bingo" means a specific game of chance played by the random selection of one or more individually prepacked cards, with winners being determined by the preprinted appearance of the letters B.I.N.G.O. in any prescribed order on the reverse side of such card.
- § 18.2-340.2. Permit required.—Prior to the commencement of any bingo game or raffle by a duly qualified organization as defined in this article, such organization shall be required to obtain an annual permit from the governing body of each city or county in which a bingo game or raffle is to be conducted, or from a local official, designated by such governing body. Application for such annual permit shall be made on the following form; provided, however, that such form may be expanded to include any other information desired by the local governing body.

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO HOLD BINGO GAMES AND RAFFLES

1.	Name of organization			
	Address or Headquarters			
	Address where bingo games will be held on	r raffle drawing will be conducted		
	Note: This permit is valid only at the	above location		
	Days and times on which games are to be l	held		
2.	When was your organization founded? this city or county for two continuous	_ Has your organization been in existence in years?		
	Is it a nonprofit organization?	Tax Exempt Status No. (if applicable)		
	Gross receipts from all sources related to the operation of bingo games or instant bingo by calendar quarter for 12-month period immediately prior to date of this application			
	lst Quarter 2nd Quarter			
	3rd (warter 4th Quarter			
٠				
3.	Officers of organization:			
	President	Address		
	Secretary	Address		
	Treasurer	Address		
4.	Type of permit applied for: Bingo Games	Raffles		
5.	Member authorized by your organization who will be responsible for bingo or raffle operation?			
	Name			
	Address			
		Business Phone		
6.	contract with any person or firm, associa	t is a violation of law to enter into a ation, organization, partnership or corporation e purpose of organizing, managing or conduction		

٠.	receipts and disbursement	ents pertaining to bingo	games and raffles and t	hat such records			
	are subject to audit by	7	(insert designate	d local official)?			
8.	Has your organization a \$25.00 payable to the _	attached a check for the					
9.	Does your organization	understand that any orga	nization found in violat	tion of			
	§ 18.2-340.10 of the Code of Virginia authorizing this permit is subject to having such permit revoked and any organization or person, shareholder, agent, member or employee of such organization who violated § 18.2-340.10 or Article 1.1 of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2 of the Code of Virginia may be guilty of a felony?						
10.	Does your organization understand that it will be required to furnish a complete list of its membership upon the request of the local governing body?						
11.	I hereby swear or affirm under the penalties of perjury as set forth in § 18.1-434 of the Code of Virginia, that all of the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge, information and beliefs. All questions have been answered.						
	Signed by						
		•					
	Name	Title	Address				
	Subscribed and sworn to	before me, this	day of	19			
	My commission expires:						
		, 19		·			
			Notary Public				

- § 18.2-340.3. Issuance of permit; requirements, duration, waiver, where valid.—A. Prior to the issuance of any permit, the organization must meet the following requirements:
- 1. Such organization shall have been in existence and met on a regular basis in the city or county where application is made for a period of at least two years immediately prior to making application for such permit.
- 2. A permit shall be valid only in the jurisdiction wherein the application is approved and only at such locations as are designated in the permit application. However, a permit may be issued to an organization which relocates its meeting place on a permanent basis from one juridiction to another and complies with the requirements of Subsection 1. of this section and provided further that such organization was the holder of a valid permit at the time of such relocation.
- 3. Such organization shall be operated currently and shall have been operated in the past as a non-profit organization and shall have been in existence as such non-profit organization for a period of at least two years immediately prior to seeking a permit as hereinafter provided.
- 4. Any organization whose gross receipts from all bingo operations exceed or can be expected to exceed fifty thousand dollars in any calendar year shall have been granted tax-exempt status pursuant to § 501 C of the United States Internal Revenue Code.
- B. All permits shall be issued on an annual basis and unless otherwise provided shall be valid for twelve months from the date of issue.
- C. All applications for such permit shall be acted upon by the governing body, or its designated official, within ninety days from the filing thereof.
- D. Upon compliance by the applicant with the provisions of this section, the governing body of the city or county, or the designated official of the political subdivision, may issue an annual permit. All permits shall be subject to reasonable regulation by the local governing body to ensure the public safety in the operation of bingo games.
- § 18.2-340.4. Conduct of bingo games.—No organization may hold bingo games more frequently than two calendar days in any one calendar week, except that a special permit may be granted an organization which will entitle an organization to conduct more frequent operations during carnivals, fairs and other similar events at its principal meeting place or any other site selected by such organization which is located in the jurisdiction issuing the permit and which is not in violation of any local zoning ordinance.
- § 18.2-340.5. "Instant bingo".—A. Any organization qualified to conduct bingo games pursuant to the provisions of this article are authorized to play "instant bingo" as a part of such bingo game; provided however, that "instant bingo" may be conducted only at such times as a regular bingo game as defined in § 18.2-340.1 (2) is in progress and only at such location and at such times as are specified in the bingo application permit.
- B. The proceeds from the playing of "instant bingo" shall not exceed thirty-three and one third per centum of the gross receipts of an organization's bingo operation.
- C. The governing body of any county, city or town is hereby authorized to adopt a local ordinance prohibiting the playing of "instant bingo".
- § 18.2-340.6. Reports of gross receipts and disbursements required.—A. Complete records of all receipts and disbursements shall be kept and shall be filed annually under oath with such local official as the local governing body may designate or if no such official is designated then with the commissioner of accounts of such political subdivision. All such accountings shall be made no later than sixty days next following the last day of the twelve-month period immediately following the date on which the annual permit was issued; provided that any organization whose gross receipts exceed fifty thousand dollars during any calendar quarter shall be required to file an additional accounting of its receipts and disbursements during such quarter no later than sixty days following the last day of such quarter. "Gross receipts", as used in this section, shall mean the total amount of money received from bingo and "instant bingo" operations before the deduction of expenses or prizes.

B. All such reports of receipts and disbursements shall be made on the following form and acknowledged in the presence of a duly authorized notary public. Such form may be expanded to include any other information desired by the local governing body. The failure to file such reports when due shall cause the automatic revocation of the permit and no such organization shall conduct any bingo game or raffle thereafter until such report is properly filed and a new permit is obtained.

BINGO GAMES - RAFFLES FINANCIAL REPORT

All holders of a Bingo Game - Raffle Permit, issued pursuant to § 18.2-340.3, must file a record of all receipts and disbursements in accordance with the provisions of this article. FAILURE TO FILE A REPORT OF SUCH RECORDS WHEN DUE SHALL CAUSE THE AUTOMATIC REVOCATION OF PERMIT.

Name of Organization	Type of Organization	Phone	
Address	Address where Bingo	o - Raffle	is conducted
City, State, Zip Code	Person Preparing Report		Phone .
Indicate Period for Which This Report if File	ed		
Beginning Bank Balance from Bingo/Raffle Cash on Hand	TOTAL	\$\$	 (A) §
	TOTAL		(A) §
Receipts: Admission (Regular & Extra Cards) Instant Bingo Sales Misc. Sales (Excluding Bev. & Food) Raffles Other	\$		
	TOTAL		(B)\$
	1011.2		
	TOTAL CASH	AVAILABLE	(A+B)\$
Operating Cost: (Excluding Bev. & Food) Bingo Cupplies Instant Bingo Supplies Other Supplies & Equipment Permit Fee Prizes Awarded Jackpot Award Instant Bingo Rent	\$		
Audit Fee			
Other (Attach detailed explanation)	TOTAL	(C)\$	
Use of Proceeds (Attach Detailed Schedule			
Indicating Payment, Date Check or Invoice Numbers and amounts)	TOTAL	(D)\$	(C+D)\$
Ending Bank Balance from Bingo/Raffle Cash on Hand			(E)\$ (F)\$
	TOTAL CASH ACCOUN	THE FOR (C+	-D+F+F) ¢
OATH - I, the undersigned applicant, do swear statements are true, full, and correct to the	(or affirm) that t	he foregoin	g figures and
Authorized Agent		Date	
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS	DAY OF		, 19
My commission expires:	N	OTARY PUBLI	C

- § 18.2-340.7. Audit required, fee.—A. All such reports filed pursuant to § 18.2-340.5 shall be audited by such local official as the governing body may designate or if no such official is designated then by the commissioner of accounts of such political subdivision. All such reports shall be a matter of public record.
- B. The local governing body shall establish a reasonable audit fee not to exceed one-half of one per centum of the gross receipts which an organization reports pursuant to § 18.2-340.6. Such audit fee shall accompany each such annual report; provided, however, that if the gross receipts of an organization are less than two thousand dollars for the designated reporting period, such audit fee may be waived by the local governing body.
- § 18.2-340.8. Local ordinance.—The governing body of any county or city may adopt an ordinance, not in conflict with the provisions of this article, for the purpose of regulating any bingo game or raffle within such jurisdiction.
- § 18.2-340.9. Other prohibited practices.—In addition to those other practices prohibited by this article, the following acts or practices shall also be prohibited under the provisions of this article:
- A. No part of the gross receipts derived by an organization, as herein defined, permitted to conduct bingo games or raffles may be used for any purpose other than those lawful religious, charitable, community or educational purposes for which the organization is specifically chartered or organized.
- B. No organization shall enter into a contract with, or otherwise employ for compensation any person, firm, association, organization, partnership, or corporation of any classification whatsoever for the purpose of organizing, managing or conducting bingo games or raffles.
- C. No person, firm, association, organization, partnership, or corporation shall pay or receive for use of any premises devoted, in whole or in part, to the conduct of bingo games or raffles any consideration in excess of the current fair market rental value of such property, nor shall any such building or other premises be utilized in whole or in part for the purpose of conducting bingo games or raffles more frequently than three calendar days in any one calendar week. For purposes of this article, no fair market rental value consideration shall be based upon or determined by reference to a percentage of the proceeds derived from the operation of bingo games or raffles nor shall such consideration be based upon or determined by any reference to the number of people in attendance at such bingo games or raffles.
- D. No person except a bona fide member of any such organization who shall have been a member of such organization for at least ninety days immediately prior to such participation, or the spouse of any such bona fide member shall participate in the management, operation or conduct of any bingo game or raffle, and no person shall receive any remuneration for participating in the management, operation or conduct of any such game or raffle.
- E. No organization authorized to conduct any bingo game pursuant to the provisions of this article shall accept payment in full or in part from any participant of such bingo game any check, money order or other medium of exchange other than cash.
- F. No organization shall award any prize money or any merchandise valued in excess of the following amounts: (i) no door prize shall exceed twenty-five dollars, (ii) no regular bingo or special bingo game shall exceed one hundred dollars, and (iii) no jackpot of any nature whatsoever shall exceed one thousand dollars.
- § 18.2-340.10. Same; penalties.—The governing body of such political subdivision where a permit was issued may revoke the permit of any organization found not to be in strict compliance with the provisions of this article.

Any person, shareholder, agent, member or employee of any such organization violating the provisions of this article shall be quilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor; provided, however, that any person, shareholder, agent, member, or employee of any such organization violating the provisions of this article with the intent to defraud the organization, a local governing body, a designated local official, a commissioner of accounts or the public at large shall be quilty of a Class 6 felony.

- § 18.2-340.11. Enforcement of article; injunctive relief.—In the event that an organization violates the provisions of this article, then the Commonwealth's Attorney or the appropriate city or county attorney of the political subdivision which issued a permit may, in addition to the foregoing criminal penalties, apply to the appropriate circuit court for an injunction restraining the continued operation of bingo games or raffles or any aspect thereof.
- § 18.2-340.12. Hearings and appeals.—Any person or organization aggrieved by the denial, issuance, suspension or revocation of a permit to conduct bingo games or raffles by a designated local official or local governing body may, within thirty days, request a full hearing before the local governing body of the jurisdiction wherein the bingo game or raffle of such organization is conducted. Such hearing shall be held as soon thereafter as practicable after proper and sufficient notice is given. In the event that the local governing body determines that the issuance of a permit to conduct bingo games or raffles is not in conformity with the provisions of this article or that such denial, issuance, suspension or revocation is proper under the circumstances, the aggrieved person or organization may appeal such decision to the appropriate circuit court.
- 2. That § 18.2-335 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.