



## House Bill 282 (Holmes, A., LaRe)

To Permit the use of Electronic Instant Bingo Devices for Charitable Gaming

### WHAT HB 282 DOES

- **Modernization:** The bill simply clarifies that charitable instant bingo games can be played in both paper and electronic formats. For nearly 45 years, the state constitution has allowed Ohioans to play instant bingo for charitable purposes (ORC 2915); however, the law was written before technology made it possible for these games to be played electronically.
- **Accountability:** HB 282 establishes a clear and centralized system of oversight for all electronic instant bingo devices used in Ohio, allowing regulators to maintain the most advanced security standards and auditing procedures.
- **Quality:** The bill ensures the use of only the highest quality electronic devices by requiring the Ohio Attorney General's office to test each device at an independent laboratory before it can be put into operation.
- **Standards:** HB 282 requires the Ohio Attorney General, as the ultimate regulator of charitable gaming in the state, to adopt rules that ensure the integrity of electronic instant bingo.

### WHAT HB 282 DOES NOT DO

- **This legislation does not expand or create new gaming in Ohio.**
  - HB 282 simply clarifies that longstanding laws regulating charitable instant bingo apply to both paper and electronic formats of the game.
  - Ohioans adopted an amendment to the state constitution in 1975 legalizing charitable bingo, long before technology made it possible to play electronically.
  - Under HB 282, the same game currently allowed in paper format could be played on an electronic device. No new games; no new gaming laws.
- **Electronic instant bingo is not a video lottery terminal (VLT) or slot machine.**
  - Electronic instant bingo plays just like paper instant bingo with a limited number of tickets and a defined prize and payout structure.
  - A VLT is a different game where players compete against each other for prizes and the machine chooses a winner from a pool.
  - The bill specifies that the definition of "slot machine" shall not include, "...electronic instant bingo device."—They are played and regulated entirely different.
- **The bill does not allow simply anyone or organization to start using these new devices.**
  - Only Licensed Charitable Organizations who receive a license can use the devices. This organization must be in good standing with the IRS in order to receive their gaming license.
  - Only members and their guests of the Licensed Charitable Organizations are allowed to play the devices. THE DEVICES ARE LOCATED ONLY IN PRIVATE CLUBS AND ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

### BENEFITS OF HB 282 BECOMING LAW

- Electronic Instant Bingo will help charities by giving them an electronic game that is fun and entertaining and will attract play by current patrons and by new patrons.
  - Veterans and Fraternals have seen marked increase in their fundraising with the introduction of these games in other states.
  - Upon passage, Kentucky has seen charitable gaming revenues increase for the first time in over 10 years, by over 20%!
- Additionally, by creating a centralized system with oversight by the Attorney General, audits of the games can be done faster and in real-time, thus greatly reducing fraud, waste, and abuse while improving the integrity of the game.