



HOUSE BILL 292: Beach Bingo Licenses.-AB

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee: House Finance
Introduced by: Rep. Hurley
Analysis of: First Edition

Date: May 12, 2015
Prepared by: Greg Roney
Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: House Bill 292 would require a license to operate a beach bingo game. The initial application fee is \$300, and the annual renewal fee is \$300. House Bill 292 would also criminalize operating a beach bingo game without a license and providing false information on a license application as Class 2 misdemeanors.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 14-309.6 defines a bingo game as a game of chance played with individual cards having numbered squares from 1 to 75 and with prizes awarded on the basis of designated numbers on the cards conforming to a predetermined pattern of numbers. A beach bingo game is a bingo game with prizes of \$10 or less or merchandise with a value of \$10 or less.

G.S. 14-309.5(b) authorizes tax-exempt organizations to conduct bingo games. Licensed tax-exempt organizations conducting a bingo game in violation of the statute is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, the organization may not conduct a bingo game for one year. The following activities are punished as a Class I felony: operating a bingo game without a license; operating a bingo game while license is revoked or suspended; misusing any moneys received in connection with a bingo game; or contracting for consulting services.

G.S. 14-309.7 requires a license to operate a bingo game. The annual application fee is \$200.

G.S. 14-309.14 exempts beach bingo games from the general rules for bingo games. Any person offering a prize greater than the \$10 maximum value for beach bingo is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor if the prize is worth less than \$50 and is guilty of a Class I felony if the prize is worth more than \$50. No beach bingo game may be held in conjunction with any other lawful bingo game, violation is a Class I felony. No alcoholic beverage may be sold or consumed during a beach bingo game. Upon conviction, any person violating the statute may not conduct a bingo game for 1 year.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 292 would require beach bingo games to be licensed in the same manner as bingo games. Any organization operating a beach bingo game without a license is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. The application for a beach bingo license is made to the Department of Public Safety. The initial application fee is \$300, and the annual renewal fee is \$300. The fees are deposited in the General Fund and used to defray the cost of issuing beach bingo licenses and handling enforcement.

Providing false information in an application is cause for suspension of that license and is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

All books and records relevant to determining whether an individual has acted compliance must be open to inspection by the Department of Public Safety at reasonable times and during reasonable hours.

EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 292 would be effective December 1, 2015. Beginning October 1, 2015, the Department of Public Safety may accept applications, charge and collect application fees, and issue licenses.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



Research Division
(919) 733-2578

* H 2 9 2 - S M T M - 4 1 E 1 - V 4 *