



# General Statutes Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** House Judiciary  
**From:** General Statutes Commission  
**Re:** HB 1064 (GSC Clarifying Bingo License Statute)  
**Date:** May 11, 2020

### General Comments

This bill clarifies the bingo license statute by (i) replacing legalese with plain English, (ii) eliminating technically unnecessary language, (iii) making technical amendments to conform to this State's drafting conventions, (iv) making stylistic changes to improve readability, (v) adding commas, and (vi) rephrasing unclear language. The General Statutes Commission circulated a draft of this bill to the State Bureau of Investigation, N.C. Sheriffs' Association, Inc., Department of Justice, Department of Revenue, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, N.C. Association of County Commissioners, N.C. League of Municipalities, and N.C. Center for Nonprofits. The Commission is unaware of any opposition to this bill.

### Specific Comments

**Section 1** amends G.S. 14-309.7, which governs the licensing of organizations conducting bingo games, as follows:

- In subsection (a), replaces "may not" with "shall not" to be consistent with this State's drafting conventions and makes stylistic changes to improve readability.
- In subsection (b), adds an Oxford comma, eliminates technically unnecessary language, adds a cross-reference, replaces "organization" with "applicant" to be consistent with the rest of the subsection, and replaces legalese with plain English.
- In subsection (c), adds an Oxford comma, replaces legalese with plain English, clarifies an ambiguous reference, replaces "No . . . may" with "No . . . shall" to be consistent with this State's drafting conventions, and recodifies part of the subsection as subsection (c1).
- In subsection (c1), makes stylistic changes to improve readability, replaces legalese with plain English, replaces "must" with "shall" to be consistent with the rest of the section, and replaces "which" with "that."
- In subsection (d), replaces legalese with plain English.
- In subsection (e), eliminates technically unnecessary language, replaces legalese with plain English, makes stylistic changes to improve readability, replaces "may not" with "shall not" to be consistent with this State's drafting conventions, adds a missing comma, replaces "the licensing agency" with "the Bureau" (the name of the licensing agency), rephrases unclear language, and replaces "which" with "that."

**Section 2** provides that this act becomes effective October 1, 2020, and applies to applications submitted on or after that date.