

# SENATE, No. 2631

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 29, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator VIN GOPAL**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Senator STEVEN V. OROHO**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Bateman**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permits conduct of bingos and raffles remotely.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/27/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning the conduct of certain games of chance  
2 remotely and amending P.L.1954, c.6 and P.L.1954, c.5.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1954, c.6 (C.5:8-25) is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 2. a. It shall be lawful for the governing body of any  
10 municipality, at any time after this act shall become operative  
11 within such municipality and except when prohibited by this act, to  
12 license bona fide organizations or associations of veterans of any  
13 war in which the United States has been engaged, churches or  
14 religious congregations and religious organizations, charitable,  
15 educational and fraternal organizations, civic and service clubs,  
16 senior citizen associations and clubs, officially recognized volunteer  
17 fire companies, and officially recognized volunteer first aid or  
18 rescue squads, to hold and operate games of chance of, and  
19 restricted to, the specific kind of game of chance commonly known  
20 as bingo or lotto played for prizes with cards bearing numbers or  
21 other designations, five or more in one line, the holder covering  
22 numbers, as objects, similarly numbered, are drawn from a  
23 receptacle and the game being won by the person who first covers a  
24 previously designated arrangement of numbers on such a card, by  
25 selling shares or tickets or rights to participate in such games and  
26 by conducting the games accordingly, when the entire net proceeds  
27 of such games of chance are to be devoted to educational,  
28 charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited uses, and, in the  
29 case of organizations or associations of veterans, and senior citizen  
30 associations or clubs, to the support of such organizations, and for  
31 any such organization, association, church, congregation, society,  
32 club, fire company, first aid or rescue squad, or senior citizen  
33 association or club, when so licensed, to hold, operate and conduct  
34 such games of chance by its active members pursuant to this act and  
35 such license, and under such conditions and regulations for the  
36 supervision and conduct thereof as shall be prescribed by rules and  
37 regulations duly adopted from time to time by the Legalized Games  
38 of Chance Control Commission, hereinafter designated as the  
39 control commission, not inconsistent with the provisions of this act,  
40 but only when the entire net proceeds thereof are devoted to the  
41 uses aforesaid and for any person or persons to participate in and  
42 play such games of chance conducted under any such license.

43 b. (1) The control commission shall, pursuant to regulations  
44 promulgated by it, authorize the use in conducting bingo or lotto of  
45 electronic devices that are the functional equivalent of the cards,

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 numbered objects, and receptacle described herein to the extent that  
2 the use of such devices is not inconsistent with any other provision  
3 of this act or the provisions of subparagraph A of the New Jersey  
4 Constitution, Article IV, Section 7, paragraph 2. Any such  
5 electronic device shall comply with specifications prescribed by the  
6 commission and shall be approved by the commission prior to use.  
7 Such devices shall not include any device into which currency,  
8 coins or tokens may be inserted or from which currency, coins or  
9 tokens, or any receipt for monetary value, can be dispensed or  
10 which, once provided to a person participating in bingo, is capable  
11 of communicating with other such devices. Nothing contained in  
12 this [section] paragraph shall be construed as allowing electronic  
13 devices used by a qualified organization in conducting bingo or  
14 lotto to be linked to electronic devices used by any other qualified  
15 organization in conducting bingo or lotto.

16 (2) The control commission shall adopt regulations permitting  
17 the conduct of bingo or lotto remotely using communication  
18 technology in a manner consistent the provisions of P.L.1954, c.6  
19 (C.5:8-24 et seq.) and to the extent not inconsistent with the  
20 provisions of subparagraph A of the New Jersey Constitution,  
21 Article IV, Section 7, paragraph 2. Such technology shall comply  
22 with specifications prescribed by the commission and shall be  
23 approved by the commission prior to use. A licensee conducting  
24 bingo or lotto pursuant to this paragraph shall verify that the  
25 physical location of each participant, irrespective of the location of  
26 any server or intermediate routing of electronic data, is within a  
27 municipality in which the majority of voters voting therein voted in  
28 favor of the adoption of the provisions of P.L.1954, c.6 (C.5:8-  
29 24 et seq.) and in which such provisions are still in effect. For the  
30 purpose of conducting bingo or lotto pursuant to this paragraph, the  
31 location of the active member or other person approved by the  
32 control commission to hold, operate, or conduct the game shall be  
33 deemed the licensed premises.

34 (cf: P.L.2013, c.85, s.1)

35

36 2. Section 2 of P.L.1954, c.5 (C.5:8-51) is amended to read as  
37 follows:

38 2. a. It shall be lawful for the governing body of any  
39 municipality, at any time after this act shall become operative  
40 within such municipality and except when prohibited by this act, to  
41 license bona fide organizations or associations of veterans of any  
42 war in which the United States has been engaged, churches or  
43 religious congregations and religious organizations, charitable,  
44 educational and fraternal organizations, civic and service clubs,  
45 senior citizen associations and clubs, officially recognized volunteer  
46 fire companies, and officially recognized volunteer first aid or  
47 rescue squads, to hold and operate the specific kind of game or

1 games of chance commonly known as a raffle or raffles played by  
2 drawing for prizes or the allotment of prizes by chance, by the  
3 selling of shares or tickets or rights to participate in such game or  
4 games and by conducting the game or games accordingly, when the  
5 entire net proceeds of such games of chance are to be devoted to  
6 educational, charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited uses,  
7 and in the case of organizations or associations of veterans, and  
8 senior citizen associations and clubs to the support of these  
9 organizations, and for any such organization or association, church,  
10 congregation, society, club, company or squad, when so licensed or  
11 without any license when and as hereinafter prescribed, to hold,  
12 operate and conduct such game of chance pursuant to this act and  
13 such license, in such municipality and to sell shares or tickets or  
14 rights to participate in such game or games of chance therein and in  
15 any other municipality which shall have adopted this act and under  
16 such conditions and regulations for the supervision and conduct  
17 thereof as shall be prescribed by rules and regulations duly adopted  
18 from time to time by the Legalized Games of Chance Control  
19 Commission, hereinafter designated as the control commission, not  
20 inconsistent with the provisions of this act, but only when the entire  
21 net proceeds thereof are devoted to the uses aforesaid and for any  
22 person or persons to participate in and play such games of chance  
23 conducted under any such license.

24 b. The control commission may adopt regulations authorizing  
25 licensees to hold events known as:

26 "armchair races" at which wagers are placed on the outcome of  
27 previously-filmed horse races and wagers do not know the results  
28 in advance, when the prize awarded consists of merchandise or  
29 raffle tickets only, and not cash; and

30 "casino nights" at which players use chips or script purchased  
31 from the licensee to wager in games of chance known as blackjack,  
32 under/over, beat-the-dealer, chuck-a-luck, craps, roulette, bingo or  
33 similar games approved by the commission, when the chips or  
34 script are redeemable for merchandise or raffle tickets only, and not  
35 for cash.

36 The regulations shall establish the frequency with which these  
37 events may be held, the rules of the games, the specific type and  
38 value of prizes which may be offered, the qualifications of the  
39 individuals conducting the games and other requirements which the  
40 commission may deem pertinent.

41 c. No license shall be required for the holding, operating or  
42 conducting of a raffle for a door prize of merchandise of the total  
43 retail value of \$200.00 or less, or a higher amount as established by  
44 regulation of the control commission, for which no extra charge is  
45 made at an assemblage, if the proceeds of such assemblage are  
46 devoted to the uses described in this section.



**S2631 GOPAL, OROHO**

6

1 Under current law, eligible organizations include veterans  
2 organizations or associations, churches or religious congregations  
3 and organizations, charitable, educational and fraternal  
4 organizations, civic and service clubs, senior citizen associations  
5 and clubs, and volunteer fire companies, first aid, and rescue  
6 squads.