P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 386, approved January 19, 1998 Senate, No. 1762 (Second Reprint)

1 AN ACT concerning the conduct of raffles and amending and 2 supplementing P.L.1954, c.5.

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

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1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that it is the purpose of this act to assist charitable, civic and service organizations, including volunteer fire companies, first-aid squads, church organizations, school groups, veterans' organizations and senior citizen clubs, in conducting raffles to raise funds for educational, charitable, patriotic, religious and public-spirited purposes.

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- 14 2. Section 10 of P.L.1954, c.5 (C.5:8-59) is amended to read as 15 follows:
- 16 10. a. No person under the age of 18 years shall be permitted to 17 participate in any manner in any game or games of chance not 18 conducted by a drawing, except that a person under the age of 18 19 years shall be permitted to play a game of chance not conducted by a drawing when the prize offered and awarded consists of merchandise 20 [only and does not include] ²[or consists of] only and does not 21 include² cash or money ²[in an amount not in excess of \$20]². 22
- b. No person under the age of 18 years shall be permitted to 23 participate in any manner in any game or games of chance conducted 24 25 by a drawing, held, operated or conducted pursuant to any license 26 issued under this act, except that a person under the age of 18 years 27 shall be permitted to play an on-premises draw raffle, including a ¹[Chinese] Penny auction, when any prize offered and awarded
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- 29 consists of merchandise only.
- (cf: P.L.1994, c.63, s.16) 30

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SSG committee amendments adopted March 3, 1997.

² Senate floor amendments adopted March 10, 1997.

¹[3. (New section) A qualified organization which is authorized and licensed to conduct raffles pursuant to the "Raffles Licensing Law," P.L.1954, c.5 (C.5:8-50 et seq.), may conduct a Chinese auction on up to two occasions in each calendar year, except that the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission may provide, by regulation, that such organizations may conduct Chinese auctions on more than two occasions per calendar year.]¹

¹[4.] 3.¹ (New section) As used in P.L.1954, c.5 (C.5:8-50 et seq.), as amended and supplemented, "¹[Chinese] Penny¹ auction" means an event at which multiple items of merchandise, or gift certificates therefor, but not cash, are raffled by drawing the winning ticket from a container designated for each item into which players seeking to win that item have placed tickets, with all tickets having been sold for the same price or different prices and each ticket placed in a container having an equal chance of winning.

- ¹[5.] <u>4.</u> ¹ (New section) The Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission shall promulgate regulations allowing qualified organizations to:
- a. offer as a raffle prize any personal or professional service, or a gift certificate for any personal or professional service, which is a lawful activity and which the commission determines to be an appropriate raffle prize¹, and the value of which is within the limits set by the commission for raffle prizes¹;
- b. offer as a raffle prize ¹[any live animal the possession of which does not require a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection] a gift certificate redeemable for live, edible seafood the value of which is within the limits set by the commission for raffle prizes¹;
- c. offer a discount to any person purchasing two or more tickets for a draw raffle; and
- d. use ¹a big six wheel, ¹ a big eight wheel ¹or other wheel ¹ to determine the winner of a non-draw raffle.

¹[6.] <u>5.</u> ¹ (New section) The Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission shall prepare, publish and make available to any qualified organization, upon request, a pamphlet which describes in plain and simple language the rights, duties and responsibilities of organizations conducting raffles and the exact manner in which games of chance are to be conducted.

¹[7.] <u>6.</u>¹ (New section) Prior to initiating administrative action or bringing charges against an organization qualified to conduct raffles for a violation which relates to the conduct of games or the awarding of prizes, the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission shall

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1	first issue a verbal or written warning and offer the organization the
2	opportunity to cease the conduct which constitutes the violation.
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4	¹ [8.] <u>7.</u> ¹ This act shall take effect immediately.
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9	Makes various changes to the laws governing the conduct of raffles.