



ACT 66 of 2017

Act 66 of 2017 amended the state Bingo Law, which had gone unchanged since 1981, pertaining to prizes and other aspects of bingo, including advertising.

The updated Bingo Law increases prize limits for games as follows:

- From \$250 to \$500 for any one game;
- From \$2,000 to \$4,000 for a jackpot game; and
- From \$4,000 to \$8,000 total prize allocation for a single calendar day.

Act 66 allows, removes, amends, and defines the following:

- Allows guest bingo callers as long as the guest has not been convicted of a felony or a violation of the Bingo Law and is under the supervision of a bona fide member of the association hosting the game.
- Allows bingo licensees to advertise any prize, including its dollar value and any guaranteed prize dollar value, of bingo games being held.
- Allows associations to conduct bingo daily instead of just two days a week.
- Removes the provision prohibiting a person from participating in the operation of bingo games on more than four days per calendar week.
- Removes the provision that requires an association in Allegheny County to only conduct bingo in the municipality where the association's headquarters is located.
- Amends the definition of "bona fide member" by eliminating the requirement that the individual be a member of the association for at least one year.
- Allow associations to conduct pre-draw bingo games.
- Defines "pre-draw bingo" as a game of bingo in which 24 or more numbers are randomly generated prior to the beginning of a game in the presence of at least five players. The random numbers shall be generated through the use of balls or other objects separate from those used once a game begins or through the use of a wheel or other mechanical device. Players may purchase concealed face cards to play the game after the random numbers are generated and called. Any card on which all numbers on the card are covered solely by the random numbers called or by the random numbers and the subsequent numbers called once the game begins shall constitute bingo.
- Removes the two year waiting requirement for license applications for bona fide consolidated volunteer fire companies provided that before the merger one of the companies held a valid and current bingo license. Permits consolidated volunteer fire companies to conduct bingo at two locations in the county.
- Removes the provision which states that any person who permits the conduct of bingo on the same premises on more than five days in one week, or by more that one association on any calendar day, except for bingo played at an exposition, carnival or fair, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.