

New requirements effective July 1, 2021

Chapter 520 of the 2021 Acts of Assembly amended Virginia's Charitable Gaming Law ([Va. Code §18.2-340.15 et seq.](#)) and these changes may affect your constituents who wish to conduct certain charitable gaming activities. I wanted to make you aware of some of these changes in case you receive calls from your constituents. The changes included the following:

Definition of Organization

Redefines "organization" in the Charitable Gaming Law (see the Definitions section of the Charitable Gaming Law, [Va. Code §18.2-340.16](#)). The redefining of "organization" may impact those organizations which are eligible for a charitable gaming permit.

Permit Requirement

Requires all organizations conducting bingo activities and instant bingo/seal cards/pull-tabs activities to obtain a permit from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).

- Prior to the enactment of Chapter 520, organizations generating less than \$40,000 in gross receipts from bingo activities and instant bingo/seal cards/pull-tabs activities were not required to get a permit.
- Organizations which qualify to conduct charitable gaming pursuant to [Subsection 15 of the definition of "organization,"](#) can generate no more than \$40,000 annually in gross receipts from its bingo activities and instant bingo/seal cards/pull-tabs activities.
- Permits cannot be issued for these organizations to generate more than \$40,000 annually in gross receipts from all of its charitable gaming activities, including raffles, bingo and instant bingo/seal cards/pull-tabs. See the Raffles section below for information on conducting raffles generating less than \$40,000 in revenue.

Private Social Quarters

- Requires organizations conducting bingo activities and instant bingo/seal cards/pull-tabs activities within its private social quarters to obtain a permit from the VDACS.
- Prior to the enactment of Chapter 520, private social quarters were not required to get a permit to conduct instant bingo/seal cards/pull-tabs activities.
- Provides that private social quarters included in [Subsection 15 of the definition of "organization,"](#) can generate no more than \$40,000 annually in gross receipts from all of its charitable gaming activities, including raffles, bingo and instant bingo/seal cards/pull-tabs. Permits cannot be issued for these organizations to generate more than \$40,000 annually in gross receipts from all of its charitable gaming activities, including raffles, bingo, and instant bingo/seal cards/pull-tabs.
- Restricts private social quarters, except for veteran or fraternal organizations, from conducting bingo activities or selling instant bingo/seal cards/pull-tabs outside of the county, city, or town (or adjoining locality) where their principal office is located. In addition, an organization may not conduct bingo games at an

establishment that has been granted a license pursuant to Chapter 2 (§ [4.1-200](#) et seq.) of Title 4.1 unless such license is held by the organization. The enactment clause of Chapter 520 provides that certain organizations may be exempted from these restrictions until June 30, 2022.

- Requires all organizations conducting instant bingo/seal cards/pull-tabs activities within its private social quarters to establish controlled access to these quarters.

Raffles

While Chapter 520 amended certain portions of the Charitable Gaming Law, organizations which are only conducting raffle activities and generate less than \$40,000 in gross receipts from all of its raffle activities combined during any 12-month period will continue to be exempted from the permit requirement. As an example, a high school band booster organization that conducts raffles as a fundraising activity may continue to do so without a permit from VDACS, provided that the all raffles combined do not generate more than \$40,000 in gross receipts during any 12-month period.

If you have any questions regarding the Charitable Gaming Law, please contact Michael Menefee, Program Manager of the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs at Michael.Menefee@vdacs.virginia.gov or (804) 786-3983.