

HB 203 -- Multihall and Satellite Bingo

Sponsor: Salva

This bill changes the laws regarding bingo and authorizes the game of multihall bingo. The bill:

(1) Includes "multihall bingo" with "bingo" as a licensed gaming activity and requires multihall bingo operators to follow the same licensing procedures and regulations required for organizations licensed to conduct bingo games;

(2) Requires that all net proceeds derived from state taxes relating to multihall bingo be deposited in the Bingo for Education Fund;

(3) Requires organizations wishing to conduct multihall bingo games to become members of the multihall bingo network;

(4) Allows a multihall bingo broadcaster to market the multihall bingo concept to any organization licensed to operate bingo games;

(5) Requires the multihall bingo broadcaster to install the equipment necessary for each member of the multihall bingo network to participate in the multihall bingo games;

(6) Explains the specific obligations of the multihall bingo broadcaster;

(7) Explains the method by which a multihall bingo producer is selected and his or her specific obligations;

(8) Requires each member of the multihall bingo network to pool a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of bingo cards so that their customers can play for the progressive prize;

(9) Allows only one multihall bingo game to be played per day;

(10) Allows only three types of prizes to be awarded for any one game: the progressive prize, the bonus prize, and the consolation prize;

(11) Allocates the percentage of total revenue collected from the sale of bingo cards at all the bingo halls of all the members of the multihall bingo network that will be used to pay out the three types of prizes;

(12) Requires that if no customer wins the progressive prize for a particular game, the prize money accumulates and is added to

the next game's progressive prize until the prize is won;

(13) Requires that numbers will be called until at least one customer in the whole multihall network wins the bonus prize. If there is more than one winner, the winners will split the bonus prize equally;

(14) Requires that numbers will be called until at least one customer at each bingo hall wins the consolation prize. If there is more than one winner at any particular bingo hall, the winners will split the consolation prize equally;

(15) States that any revenues required by the state will be paid by the multihall bingo broadcaster based on the collective number of bingo cards sold;

(16) Requires orientation and training of the volunteer staff of the members of the multihall bingo network on the use of multihall equipment; and

(17) Removes the requirement that the number of eligible organizations applying for a bingo license not exceed five.