

By: Representative Morris

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 453

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-33-67, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT BINGO LICENSEES SHALL NOT ALLOW PERSONS UNDER
3 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE TO PLAY BINGO GAMES ON A LICENSED PREMISES;
4 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 97-33-67, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 97-33-67. (1) (a) No licensee shall hold, operate or
9 conduct any bingo game more often than for two (2) sessions within
10 one (1) day and more often than eight (8) sessions in any one (1)
11 week. Any licensee who holds no more than one (1) session per
12 week shall be entitled to conduct one (1) six-hour session per
13 week. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph,
14 pull-tabs, video pull-tabs or video bingo games may be played for
15 up to eighty (80) hours per week.

16 (b) No licensee shall hold, operate or conduct any
17 bingo game in more than one (1) physical location. Any bingo
18 operation for which a license has been issued by the Gaming
19 Commission on or after April 1, 1995, and which is located within
20 one thousand five hundred (1,500) feet of a school or public
21 library, shall not conduct bingo sessions during the hours of the
22 school day or during library hours.

23 (2) The total amount of prizes which may be awarded in any
24 one (1) session by a licensee shall not exceed Seven Thousand Five
25 Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) in cash or other thing or things of
26 value, except as otherwise provided in Section 97-33-59 and except
27 that the total amount of prizes which may be awarded in any one

28 (1) session shall not exceed Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) if
29 only one (1) session is held in any one (1) week. The Seven
30 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) and the Eight Thousand
31 Dollars (\$8,000.00) limits do not include payback of pull-tabs or
32 electronic representations. The commission shall establish by
33 rule the method of calculating the value of anything offered as a
34 prize.

35 (3) Each licensee shall designate a supervisor and a
36 sufficient number of alternate supervisors to be in charge of and
37 primarily responsible for each session of a bingo game. Such
38 individual shall be familiar with the provisions of Sections
39 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 and the rules and regulations of the
40 commission. Such individual, or alternate who shall be designated
41 as the bingo supervisor, shall supervise all activities of such
42 session and be responsible for the conduct of all games of such
43 session. The supervisor shall be present at all times on the
44 premises during the session.

45 (4) No licensee shall purchase or otherwise obtain any
46 gaming supplies or equipment from any distributor, operator or
47 manufacturer until it has first determined that the individual
48 selling or otherwise offering such supplies or equipment has a
49 valid license issued by the commission.

50 (5) No licensee shall allow any person under eighteen (18)
51 years of age to assist in the holding, operation or conduct of any
52 bingo game. No licensee shall allow any person under eighteen
53 (18) years of age to play a bingo game, and a licensee may
54 prohibit all persons under eighteen (18) years from entering the
55 licensed premises by posting a written notice to that effect on
56 the premises.

57 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
58 and after July 1, 1999.