

By: Senator(s) Mettetal

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2797

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-33-67, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE THOSE PLAYING BINGO TO BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE; AND
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 97-33-67. (1) (a) No licensee shall hold, operate or
7 conduct any bingo game more often than for two (2) sessions within
8 one (1) day and more often than eight (8) sessions in any one (1)
9 week. Any licensee who holds no more than one (1) session per
10 week shall be entitled to conduct one (1) six-hour session per
11 week. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph,
12 pull-tabs, video pull-tabs or video bingo games may be played for
13 up to eighty (80) hours per week.

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

21 (2) The total amount of prizes which may be awarded in any
22 one (1) session by a licensee shall not exceed Seven Thousand Five
23 Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) in cash or other thing or things of
24 value, except as otherwise provided in Section 97-33-59 and except
25 that the total amount of prizes which may be awarded in any one
26 (1) session shall not exceed Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) if

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

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

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

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

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