

By: Dedeaux

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 607

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 97-33-52, 97-33-55, 97-33-65,  
 2 97-33-67, 97-33-69, 97-33-71, 97-33-73, 97-33-75, 97-33-77,  
 3 97-33-79, 97-33-81, 97-33-107, 97-33-109 AND 97-33-201,  
 4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXEMPT VETERANS CHARITABLE  
 5 ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE STATE CHARITABLE BINGO LAW IF SUCH  
 6 ORGANIZATIONS HAVE INTERNAL RULES, REGULATIONS OR GUIDELINES FOR  
 7 CONDUCTING BINGO GAMES; TO AMEND SECTION 97-33-51, MISSISSIPPI  
 8 CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; TO BRING FORWARD FOR PURPOSES  
 9 OF AMENDMENT SECTIONS 97-33-50, 97-33-53, 97-33-57, 97-33-59,  
 10 97-33-61, 97-33-101, 97-33-103, 97-33-105 AND 97-33-203,  
 11 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ARE PORTIONS OF THE STATE  
 12 CHARITABLE BINGO LAW; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 SECTION 1. Section 97-33-52, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 15 amended as follows:

16 97-33-52. (1) A bingo game may be conducted only:

17 (a) When held for the benefit of a charitable  
 18 organization that (i) is licensed pursuant to Section 97-33-55 or  
 19 Section 97-33-59; (ii) is domiciled in the State of Mississippi;  
 20 and

21 (b) When the game is held by active members of such  
 22 organization.

23 (2) Except as may be otherwise provided in Sections 97-33-51  
 24 through 97-33-203, all net proceeds derived from a bingo game  
 25 authorized by this section shall be expended only for the purposes  
 26 for which the organization is created, and no net proceeds derived

27 from a bingo game authorized by this section shall be distributed  
28 to a charity outside of the State of Mississippi without the  
29 approval of the Mississippi Gaming Commission.

30 (3) None of the proceeds of a bingo game authorized to be  
31 held under this section shall be used to purchase, construct or  
32 improve a building, hall or other facility solely for the purpose  
33 of conducting or operating a bingo game.

34 (4) Every organization which conducts bingo games shall  
35 report to the Mississippi Gaming Commission at such time, in such  
36 manner and on such forms as the commission prescribes. All  
37 records and reports so filed shall be public records and shall be  
38 available for inspection in accordance with the Mississippi Public  
39 Records Act of 1983.

40 (5) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
41 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
42 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
43 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
44 by the commission.

45 SECTION 2. Section 97-33-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
46 amended as follows:

47 97-33-55. (1) Any charitable organization desiring to  
48 conduct bingo games must obtain a license to do so from the  
49 Mississippi Gaming Commission.

50 (2) Each applicant for such a license shall file with the  
51 commission a written application therefor in a form prescribed by  
52 the commission on which shall be stated:

53 (a) The name and address of the applicant, together  
54 with sufficient facts relating to its incorporation and  
55 organization to enable the commission to determine whether or not  
56 the applicant is a bona fide organization;

57 (b) The names and addresses of its officers;

58           (c) The place or places where, and the date or dates  
59 and the time or times when, bingo games are intended to be  
60 conducted by the applicant, under the license applied for;

61           (d) The items of expense intended to be incurred or  
62 paid in connection with the holding, operating and conducting of  
63 bingo games and the names and addresses of the persons to whom,  
64 and the purposes for which, they are to be paid;

65           (e) The specific purposes to which the entire net  
66 proceeds of the bingo games are to be devoted and in what manner;

67           (f) That, except as otherwise provided in Section  
68 97-33-69, no commission, salary, compensation, reward or  
69 recompense will be paid to any person for holding, operating or  
70 conducting bingo games;

71           (g) A description of all prizes to be offered and given  
72 in all bingo games to be held, operated and conducted under such  
73 license; and

74           (h) Such other information as shall be prescribed by  
75 the commission by its rules and regulations.

76           (3) In each application there shall be designated an active  
77 member or members of the organization under whom the bingo games  
78 are to be held, operated and conducted. The application shall  
79 include a statement executed by the applicant and by the member or  
80 members so designated, that he or they will be responsible for the  
81 holding, operation and conduct of the bingo games in accordance  
82 with the terms of the license and the provisions of the  
83 commission's rules and regulations governing bingo games and of  
84 Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203, if such license is granted.

85           (4) An original application shall be accompanied by a fee of

86 Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). Such application fee shall be refunded by  
87 the commission to an organization deemed to be an exempt  
88 organization pursuant to Section 97-33-107.

89 (5) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
90 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
91 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
92 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
93 by the commission.

94 SECTION 3. Section 97-33-65, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
95 amended as follows:

96 97-33-65. The commission shall control all bingo games held,  
97 operated or conducted by a licensee to assure that they are fairly  
98 held, operated and conducted in accordance with the provisions of  
99 the license, the commission's rules and regulations, and the  
100 provisions of Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203. The commission  
101 may suspend or revoke any license for violation of any such rule  
102 and regulation or provision. Its officers and agents may enter  
103 and inspect any premises where any bingo game is being held,  
104 operated and conducted or is intended to be held, operated and  
105 conducted, or where any equipment is being used or intended to be  
106 used in the conduct thereof. This section shall not apply to a  
107 charitable organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that  
108 has internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
109 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
110 by the commission.

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

113 97-33-67. (1) (a) No licensee shall hold, operate or

114 conduct any bingo game more often than for two (2) sessions within  
115 one (1) day and more often than eight (8) sessions in any one (1)  
116 week. Any licensee who holds no more than one (1) session per  
117 week shall be entitled to conduct one (1) six-hour session per  
118 week. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph,  
119 pull-tabs, video pull-tabs or video bingo games may be played for  
120 up to eighty (80) hours per week.

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

128 (2) The total amount of prizes which may be awarded in any  
129 one (1) session by a licensee shall not exceed Seven Thousand Five  
130 Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) in cash or other thing or things of  
131 value, except as otherwise provided in Section 97-33-59 and except  
132 that the total amount of prizes which may be awarded in any one  
133 (1) session shall not exceed Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) if  
134 only one (1) session is held in any one (1) week. The Seven  
135 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) and the Eight Thousand  
136 Dollars (\$8,000.00) limits do not include payback of pull-tabs or  
137 electronic representations. The commission shall establish by  
138 rule the method of calculating the value of anything offered as a  
139 prize.

140 (3) Each licensee shall designate a supervisor and a  
141 sufficient number of alternate supervisors to be in charge of and

142 primarily responsible for each session of a bingo game. Such  
143 individual shall be familiar with the provisions of Sections  
144 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 and the rules and regulations of the  
145 commission. Such individual, or alternate who shall be designated  
146 as the bingo supervisor, shall supervise all activities of such  
147 session and be responsible for the conduct of all games of such  
148 session. The supervisor shall be present at all times on the  
149 premises during the session.

150 (4) No licensee shall purchase or otherwise obtain any  
151 gaming supplies or equipment from any distributor, operator or  
152 manufacturer until it has first determined that the individual  
153 selling or otherwise offering such supplies or equipment has a  
154 valid license issued by the commission.

155 (5) No licensee shall allow any person under eighteen (18)  
156 years of age to assist in the holding, operation or conduct of any  
157 bingo game. No licensee shall allow any person under eighteen  
158 (18) years of age to play a bingo game unless accompanied by his  
159 or her parent or legal guardian, except that a licensee may  
160 prohibit all persons under eighteen (18) years from entering the  
161 licensed premises by posting a written notice to that effect on  
162 the premises.

163 (6) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
164 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
165 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
166 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
167 by the commission.

168 SECTION 5. Section 97-33-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
169 amended as follows:

170           97-33-69. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection  
171 (3) of this section, no person shall hold, operate, conduct or  
172 assist in holding, operating or conducting, any bingo game under  
173 any license issued pursuant to Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-81,  
174 except designated supervisors or alternate supervisors designated  
175 as provided for in Section 97-33-67(3).

176           (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this  
177 section and as may be otherwise provided pursuant to subsection  
178 (10) of this section, no commission, salary, compensation, reward  
179 or recompense, including but not limited to granting or use of  
180 bingo cards without charge or at a reduced charge, shall be paid  
181 or given directly or indirectly to the bingo supervisor or  
182 alternate supervisor or any person related to such supervisor or  
183 alternate supervisor by blood, marriage or business relationship,  
184 for the holding, operating or conducting any licensed game or  
185 games of chance.

186           (3) Except as may be otherwise provided pursuant to  
187 subsection (10) of this section, any licensee may pay as  
188 compensation for all persons involved in the holding, operating or  
189 conducting of any licensed game or games of chance, an amount not  
190 to exceed Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) per session. Persons who  
191 may be compensated from the Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) per  
192 session amount may include the bingo supervisor or alternate  
193 supervisor, callers, runners and cashiers. Neither the bingo  
194 supervisor nor any alternate supervisor, or any person related to  
195 such supervisor by blood, marriage or business relationship, while  
196 being compensated as the bingo supervisor, shall receive any other  
197 compensation, directly or indirectly, from the licensee. No

198 employee receiving compensation for the holding, operating or  
199 conducting or assisting in the holding, operating or conducting of  
200 a bingo game shall receive compensation for more than one (1) job  
201 function.

202 (4) (a) Any corporation, person or entity operating  
203 bingo games, under contract, for the benefit of organizations as  
204 prescribed in subsection (3) of this section shall be restricted  
205 to operating such games for a limit of one (1) such organization  
206 authorized to pay employees up to a maximum of Four Hundred  
207 Dollars (\$400.00) per session. Such corporation, person or entity  
208 shall only be authorized to conduct such sessions at one (1)  
209 physical location or building.

210 (b) Any corporation, person or entity operating bingo  
211 games, under contract, for the benefit of organizations as  
212 prescribed in subsection (3) of this section shall have a written  
213 contract with the organization and shall be subject to any rules  
214 and regulations promulgated by the commission for the purpose of  
215 investigating or regulating contracting agents.

216 (5) Except as may be otherwise provided pursuant to  
217 subsection (10) of this section, no manufacturer, operator,  
218 distributor, commercial lessor, or his agents or employees, who  
219 directly or indirectly leases premises, sells, leases, otherwise  
220 distributes gaming supplies or equipment, or furnishes any  
221 commodities or services, in relation to the conducting of any  
222 bingo game pursuant to Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 shall  
223 take part in the holding, operation or conducting of a bingo game.

224 However, nothing in this section shall prohibit the owner of a  
225 premises from having a representative present to protect his



226 interests in the premises.

227       (6) Except as may be otherwise provided pursuant to  
228 subsection (10) of this section, no bingo game shall be conducted  
229 with any supplies or equipment except such as shall be owned by  
230 the licensee, provided without payment of any compensation by the  
231 licensee or purchased from a licensed manufacturer or distributor  
232 of such supplies or equipment.

233       (7) Except as may be otherwise provided pursuant to  
234 subsection (10) of this section, no item of expense shall be  
235 incurred or paid in connection with the holding, operating or  
236 conducting of any bingo game by a licensee, except:

237           (a) The actual and reasonable costs of purchasing or  
238 leasing necessary supplies, equipment and materials to be used  
239 exclusively in the holding, operating or conducting of the bingo  
240 game; and

241           (b) The actual and reasonable costs incurred in  
242 obtaining and performing necessary bookkeeping, security and  
243 janitorial services for the holding, operating or conducting of  
244 the bingo game. The reasonableness of the amounts of, and the  
245 necessity for, an expense authorized by this subsection shall be  
246 determined by the commission.

247       (8) Except as may be otherwise provided pursuant to  
248 subsection (10) of this section, no licensee shall pay any  
249 consulting fees to any person for any service performed in  
250 relation to the conducting of any charitable game of chance or  
251 concession fees to any person who provides refreshments to the  
252 participants in any such games.

253       (9) Except as may be otherwise provided pursuant to

254 subsection (10) of this section, no lease providing for a rental  
255 arrangement for premises or equipment shall provide for payment in  
256 excess of the reasonable market rental rate for such premises or  
257 equipment, and in no case shall any payment be based on a  
258 percentage of gross receipts or profits derived from a bingo game.

259 Whether a market rental rate is reasonable shall be determined by  
260 the commission.

261 (10) Administrative exceptions to the provisions of this  
262 section with regard to organizations which have demonstrated to  
263 the Mississippi Gaming Commission a practice of legitimate  
264 operation of such games, may be made by the Mississippi Gaming  
265 Commission pursuant to its rules and regulations, as duly adopted  
266 and promulgated by the commission; provided that such an  
267 administrative exception shall be no more restrictive than the  
268 provision of law to which it is an exception.

269 (11) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
270 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
271 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
272 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
273 by the commission.

274 SECTION 6. Section 97-33-71, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
275 amended as follows:

276 97-33-71. (1) Except as may be otherwise provided pursuant  
277 to Section 97-33-107(k), the organization which held, operated or  
278 conducted the bingo game, and its bingo supervisor or supervisors  
279 who were in charge thereof, shall furnish to the commission the  
280 following information not less than quarterly:

281 (a) A verified statement showing the amount of the

282 gross receipts derived from each bingo game, which shall include  
283 receipts from the sale of shares, tickets or rights in any manner  
284 connected with participation in said game;

285 (b) Each item of expense incurred or paid, and each  
286 item of expenditure made or to be made;

287 (c) The name and address of each person to whom each  
288 such item has been paid or is to be paid, with a detailed  
289 description of the merchandise purchased or the service rendered  
290 therefor;

291 (d) The net profit derived from each such bingo game  
292 and the uses to which such net profit has been or is to be  
293 applied;

294 (e) A list of prizes offered or given, with the  
295 respective values thereof;

296 (f) The number of participants in each game.

297 (2) Each licensee shall maintain and keep such books and  
298 records as may be necessary to substantiate the particulars of  
299 each such report.

300 (3) All licensees shall maintain records and submit reports  
301 as provided by rules of the commission. Such rules may require  
302 that all income of a licensee derived from charitable bingo games  
303 be recorded to the extent necessary to disclose gross and net  
304 income.

305 (4) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
306 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
307 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
308 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
309 by the commission.

310 SECTION 7. Section 97-33-73, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
311 amended as follows:

312 97-33-73. (1) The Mississippi Gaming Commission shall have  
313 power to examine or to cause to be examined the books and records  
314 of any organization to which such license is issued so far as they  
315 may relate to any transactions connected with the holding and  
316 conducting of bingo and to examine any manager, officer, director,  
317 agent, member or employee thereof under oath in relation to the  
318 conduct of any such game, but any information so received shall  
319 not be disclosed except so far as may be necessary for the purpose  
320 of carrying out the provisions of Sections 97-33-51 through  
321 97-33-203.

322 (2) The State Tax Commission shall have the power to examine  
323 or to cause to be examined the books and records of any  
324 organization to which a license is issued for the purpose of  
325 determining compliance with the Charitable Bingo Law and any other  
326 laws and regulations and to conduct in-depth audits and  
327 investigation of the licensee.

328 (3) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
329 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
330 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
331 games.

332 SECTION 8. Section 97-33-75, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
333 amended as follows:

334 97-33-75. (1) Any person, association or corporation  
335 violating any provision of Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 or  
336 any rule or regulation of the commission shall be subject to a  
337 fine imposed by the commission and to suspension or revocation of

338 its license.

339 (2) Any person who commits any of the following acts, upon  
340 conviction, shall be fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars  
341 (\$5,000.00) or imprisoned for one (1) year, or both:

342 (a) Making any false statement in any application for a  
343 license under Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203, or in any  
344 official report to the commission;

345 (b) Holding, operating or conducting any bingo game  
346 without a license;

347 (c) Knowingly falsifying or making any false entry in  
348 any books or records, with respect to any transaction connected  
349 with the holding, operating or conducting of any bingo game;

350 (d) Refusing to allow the commission access to any  
351 premises where a game of chance is being conducted or to any book,  
352 record or document relating to such conduct;

353 (e) Intentionally causing, aiding, abetting or  
354 conspiring with another to cause any person to violate any  
355 provision of Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203;

356 (f) Possessing, displaying, selling or otherwise  
357 furnishing to any person any pull-tabs, except as provided for in  
358 Section 97-33-77.

359 (3) Any person who violates any other provision of Sections  
360 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 that is not listed in this section may  
361 be imprisoned for not more than six (6) months or fined not more  
362 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or both.

363 (4) Any conviction of any person pursuant to subsections (2)  
364 and (3) of this section shall constitute cause for revocation of  
365 the license of such person or the organization with which such

366 person is affiliated.

367 (5) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
368 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
369 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
370 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
371 by the commission.

372 SECTION 9. Section 97-33-77, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
373 amended as follows:

374 97-33-77. (1) No organization, distributor, manufacturer,  
375 or any representative thereof, either with knowledge or in  
376 circumstances whereunder he reasonably should have known, shall  
377 possess, display, put out for play, sell or otherwise furnish to  
378 any person any pull-tabs:

379 (a) In which the winning pull-tabs have not been  
380 completely and randomly distributed and mixed among all other  
381 pull-tabs in the deal;

382 (b) In which the location or approximate location of  
383 any of the winning pull-tabs can be determined in advance of  
384 opening the pull-tabs in any manner or by any device, including  
385 but not limited to any pattern in the manufacture, assembly, or  
386 packaging of pull-tabs by the manufacturer, by any markings on the  
387 pull-tabs or container, or by the hue of a light; or

388 (c) Which does not conform in any respect to these  
389 requirements as to manufacturer, assembly or packaging.

390 (2) A distributor shall not purchase or be furnished any  
391 pull-tabs from a manufacturer of pull-tabs unless all of the  
392 following conditions are met:

393 (a) The manufacturer's label or trademark has been

394 registered with the Mississippi Gaming Commission.

395 (b) Each individual pull-tab manufactured has  
396 conspicuously set forth on it the name of the manufacturer or a  
397 label or trademark which identifies its manufacturer.

398 (c) The pull-tab is of a type approved by the  
399 commission for use in Mississippi.

400 (3) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
401 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
402 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
403 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
404 by the commission.

405 SECTION 10. Section 97-33-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
406 amended as follows:

407 97-33-79. (1) No person or other entity shall fabricate,  
408 concoct or manufacture any supplies or equipment for use in the  
409 conducting of any bingo game authorized under Sections 97-33-51  
410 through 97-33-203, including but not limited to bingo equipment,  
411 pull-tabs, or electronic representations, within this state or for  
412 use within this state without having obtained a manufacturer's  
413 license from the commission.

414 (2) No person or other entity shall sell, offer for sale, or  
415 otherwise furnish any other person any supplies or equipment of  
416 use in the conduct of any bingo game authorized under Sections  
417 97-33-51 through 97-33-203, including but not limited to bingo  
418 equipment and pull-tabs without having obtained a distributor's or  
419 operator's license from the commission.

420 (3) No person licensed as a manufacturer, distributor or  
421 operator shall sell or otherwise make available any such gaming

422 supplies or equipment to any individual unless he has first  
423 determined that the individual is a licensed distributor or is  
424 acting as an agent of an organization which has a valid license  
425 issued by the commission.

426 (4) No manufacturer, distributor or operator of gaming  
427 supplies or equipment shall directly or indirectly give gifts,  
428 trips, prizes, premiums or other such gratuities to any charitable  
429 gaming organization, its employees, or commercial lessors.

430 (5) Each manufacturer, distributor or operator of gaming  
431 supplies or equipment shall maintain records and submit reports as  
432 required by rules of the commission. The rules may require  
433 maintenance of purchase and sale invoices of all gaming supplies  
434 and equipment manufactured or distributed, whether by sale, lease,  
435 rental, loan or donation, to any charitable gaming organization.

436 (6) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
437 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
438 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
439 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
440 by the commission.

441 SECTION 11. Section 97-33-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
442 amended as follows:

443 97-33-81. (1) No organization which conducts charitable  
444 bingo games shall be a manufacturer, distributor or operator of  
445 supplies or equipment for such games.

446 (2) No officer, director or manager of an organization which  
447 conducts charitable bingo games shall:

448 (a) Have a direct or indirect financial interest in any  
449 entity which manufactures or distributes supplies or equipment for



450 charitable bingo games;

451 (b) Serve as an officer, director, shareholder,  
452 proprietor or employee of an entity which manufactures or  
453 distributes supplies or equipment for charitable bingo games; or

454 (c) Serve as an officer, director, shareholder,  
455 proprietor or employee of a commercial lessor who leases  
456 buildings, structures or premises to organizations licensed under  
457 the provisions of Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203.

458 (3) No entity which manufactures or distributes supplies or  
459 equipment for charitable bingo games of chance; no officer,  
460 director, shareholder, proprietor or employee of such entity; and  
461 no person having a direct or indirect financial interest in such  
462 an entity shall lease premises, directly or indirectly, to an  
463 organization for purposes of conducting charitable bingo games of  
464 chance.

465 (4) No entity or person described in subsections (1), (2) or  
466 (3) of this section shall serve as a commercial lessor.

467 (5) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
468 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
469 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
470 games.

471 SECTION 12. Section 97-33-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
472 amended as follows:

473 97-33-107. In connection with its regulation of charitable  
474 bingo games, the commission shall have the following functions,  
475 duties and responsibilities:

476 (a) To issue and renew annual state licenses required  
477 by law for organizations conducting bingo games and for

478 manufacturers, distributors or operators of supplies or equipment  
479 for such games;

480 (b) To assess and collect fees not to exceed two and  
481 one-half percent (2-1/2%) of the net proceeds of pull-tabs,  
482 electronic bingo machines and electronic pull-tab machines, which  
483 fees shall be limited to the amounts necessary to administer the  
484 Charitable Bingo Law;

485 (c) To assess and collect fees equal to one percent  
486 (1%) of the gross proceeds of each bingo session conducted by a  
487 Class "A" charitable organization and equal to one-half (1/2) of  
488 one percent (1%) of the gross proceeds of each bingo session  
489 conducted by a Class "B" or a Class "C" charitable organization;  
490 provided, however, that the fees assessed and collected under this  
491 subsection (c) shall not apply to pull-tabs, electronic bingo  
492 machines or electronic pull-tab machines as described in  
493 subsection (b) above; and provided, that the fees shall not be  
494 collected in any bingo session held by a religious organization  
495 which has been in existence for ten (10) years or longer, held on  
496 the premises owned by the religious organization, and held without  
497 any person being compensated for operating the game, and until the  
498 gross proceeds of bingo games conducted by such organization  
499 exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) during the calendar  
500 year;

501 (d) To deny applications for licensure or license  
502 renewal and to issue orders for suspension or revocation of  
503 licenses issued pursuant to Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203;

504 (e) To monitor licensees to ensure compliance with all  
505 provisions of law and regulations relative to charitable bingo

506 games through routine scheduled and unscheduled inspections,  
507 investigations and audits;

508 (f) To enforce all provisions of law and regulations  
509 relative to charitable bingo games and to assist local law  
510 enforcement agencies in these enforcement responsibilities and  
511 bingo enforcement agents shall have the powers of a peace officer;

512 (g) To establish and assess penalties for violations of  
513 regulations relative to charitable bingo games;

514 (h) To familiarize the members of organizations which  
515 conduct charitable bingo games of chance, with provisions of the  
516 Charitable Bingo Law and other applicable laws and regulations;

517 (i) To adopt rules and regulations to provide for the  
518 sale or transfer of surplus supplies or equipment from one  
519 licensed organization to another and such other rules and  
520 regulations as are necessary to carry out the purposes and  
521 functions of Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203, including the  
522 adoption of rules and regulations pursuant to Section 97-33-69(10)  
523 which may provide for differing requirements, with regard to the  
524 number of participants, sessions, amount of prizes offered,  
525 proceeds received or other factors which affect the regulatory and  
526 administrative burdens on organizations operating charitable bingo  
527 games, for a certain class of organizations, provided that such  
528 rules and regulations shall be no more restrictive than the  
529 provisions of law that govern such factors;

530 (j) To prescribe rules and regulations creating a class  
531 of organizations that are exempt from the purchase of reprinted  
532 tickets as provided for in paragraph (c) of this section based on  
533 the number of participants or the amount of prizes offered or

534 other factors which affect the regulatory and administrative  
535 burdens on the organizations imposed by the commission; and

536 (k) To establish the classes described in this  
537 paragraph of charitable organizations that are licensed to conduct  
538 bingo games and to prescribe rules and regulations to provide for  
539 differing reporting requirements imposed upon each different  
540 class; provided that such rules and regulations shall be no more  
541 restrictive than the provisions of law that relate to reporting  
542 requirements. Such classes of organizations are as follows:

543 (i) Class "A" shall be composed of licensed  
544 charitable organizations which conduct bingo games in which the  
545 prizes awarded total an aggregate amount in excess of Five  
546 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per session;

547 (ii) Class "B" shall be composed of licensed  
548 charitable organizations which conduct bingo games in which the  
549 prizes awarded total an aggregate amount of not less than Two  
550 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) and not more than Five  
551 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00);

552 (iii) Class "C" shall be composed of licensed  
553 charitable organizations which conduct bingo games in which the  
554 prizes awarded total an aggregate amount of less than Two Thousand  
555 Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00).

556 This section shall not apply to a charitable organization  
557 described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has internal rules,  
558 regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo games.

559 SECTION 13. Section 97-33-109, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
560 amended as follows:

561 97-33-109. (1) The commission shall monitor the conduct or

562 business of licensees, both on a routine scheduled and an  
563 unscheduled basis, to the extent necessary to ensure compliance  
564 with the provisions of charitable bingo game laws and regulations  
565 of the state.

566 (2) In carrying out its enforcement responsibilities, the  
567 commission may:

568 (a) Inspect and examine all premises in which  
569 charitable bingo games are conducted or supplies or equipment for  
570 such games are manufactured and distributed;

571 (b) Inspect all such supplies and equipment in, upon or  
572 about such premises;

573 (c) Seize and remove from such premises and impound  
574 such supplies and equipment for the purpose of examination and  
575 inspection pursuant to an appropriate court order;

576 (d) Demand access to and audit and inspect books and  
577 records of licensees for the purpose of determining compliance  
578 with laws and regulations relative to charitable bingo games;

579 (e) Conduct in-depth audits and investigations; and

580 (f) Mandate that internal controls be executed in  
581 accordance with the provisions of the Charitable Bingo Law and  
582 other applicable laws and regulations.

583 (3) The commission shall require licensees to maintain  
584 records and submit reports.

585 (4) In addition to license revocation or suspension or any  
586 criminal penalty imposed, the commission may assess a fine against  
587 any person who violates any law or regulation relative to  
588 charitable bingo games. Such a fine shall only be assessed after  
589 notice and an opportunity for a hearing to be held.

590 (5) All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, officers  
591 and institutions of the state, and all subdivisions thereof, shall  
592 cooperate with the commission in carrying out its enforcement  
593 responsibilities.

594 (6) The Attorney General shall be the attorney for the  
595 commission in regard to its duties to regulate the Charitable  
596 Bingo Law and he shall represent it in all legal proceedings and  
597 shall prosecute any civil action for a violation of the provisions  
598 of Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 or the rules and  
599 regulations of the commission.

600 (7) It is the duty of the sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and  
601 police officers of this state to assist the commission in the  
602 enforcement of the provisions of Sections 97-33-51 through  
603 97-33-203 and to arrest and complain against any person violating  
604 the provisions of Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203. It is the  
605 duty of the district attorneys of this state to prosecute all  
606 violations of the provisions of Sections 97-33-51 through  
607 97-33-203 if requested to do so by the commission.

608 (8) (a) Whenever any person who is a resident of the State  
609 of Mississippi has reason to believe that a person or organization  
610 is or has violated the provisions of Sections 97-33-51 through  
611 97-33-203 and that proceedings would be in the public interest, he  
612 may bring an action in the name of the state against such person  
613 to restrain by temporary or permanent injunction such violation,  
614 upon at least five (5) days' summons before the hearing of the  
615 action. The action shall be brought in the chancery or county  
616 court of the county in which such violation has occurred or, with  
617 consent of the parties, may be brought in the chancery or county

618 court of the county in which the State Capitol is located. The  
619 said courts are authorized to issue temporary or permanent  
620 injunctions to restrain and prevent violations of Sections  
621 97-33-51 through 97-33-203, and such injunctions shall be issued  
622 without bond.

623 (b) Any person who violates the terms of an injunction  
624 issued under this subsection shall forfeit and pay to the state a  
625 civil penalty of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)  
626 per violation which shall be payable to the General Fund of the  
627 State of Mississippi. For the purposes of this subsection, the  
628 chancery or county court issuing an injunction shall retain  
629 jurisdiction, and the cause shall be continued, and in such cases  
630 the person bringing the action may petition for recovery of civil  
631 penalties.

632 (c) In any action brought under this subsection, if the  
633 court finds that a person is willfully violating the provisions of  
634 Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203, the person bringing the  
635 action, upon petition to the court, may recover on behalf of the  
636 state a civil penalty of not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars  
637 (\$500.00) per violation which shall be payable to the General Fund  
638 of the State of Mississippi.

639 (d) No penalty authorized by this subsection shall be  
640 deemed to limit the court's powers to insure compliance with its  
641 orders, decrees and judgments, or punish for the violations  
642 thereof.

643 (e) For purposes of this subsection, a willful  
644 violation occurs when the party committing the violation knew or  
645 should have known that his conduct was a violation of the

646 provisions of Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203.

647 (9) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
648 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
649 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
650 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
651 by the commission.

652 SECTION 14. Section 97-33-201, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
653 amended as follows:

654 97-33-201. (1) (a) Any organization or person seeking  
655 licensure as a manufacturer, distributor or operator of bingo  
656 gaming supplies or equipment, shall submit an application to the  
657 commission on forms provided for such purposes. Such application  
658 shall contain such information as may be reasonably required by  
659 rules of the commission. The application shall be accompanied by  
660 a fee as established by the commission.

661 (b) The commission shall investigate all applications  
662 for licensure and, in addition to the information required on the  
663 application, may require the applicant to furnish such additional  
664 information as it deems necessary.

665 (2) The commission shall not issue a license under this  
666 section to:

667 (a) Any person who has been convicted of certain  
668 related offenses as established by the commission or who presently  
669 has such a charge pending in any state or federal court;

670 (b) Any person who has ever been convicted of a  
671 gambling-related offense in any state or federal court;

672 (c) Any person who is or has ever been a professional  
673 gambler;



674 (d) Any firm, organization or corporation in which any  
675 person as described in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this  
676 subsection is an officer or director, whether compensated or not,  
677 or in which such person has a direct or indirect financial  
678 interest;

679 (e) Any person, firm, organization, entity or  
680 corporation which has a direct or indirect financial interest in a  
681 licensed charity.

682 (3) The commission may deny an application for licensure,  
683 refuse to renew a license, or suspend or revoke a license for any  
684 reason consistent with the purposes of Sections 97-33-201 and  
685 97-33-203 which it deems to be in the interest of the public.  
686 However, policies regarding such denial, suspension, revocation or  
687 refusal to renew shall be established by rule and regulation.

688 (4) Any significant change in the information submitted on  
689 its application for licensure shall be filed by a licensee with  
690 the commission within ten (10) days of the change. A significant  
691 change shall include but not be limited to any change in the  
692 officers, directors, managers, proprietors or persons having a  
693 direct or indirect financial interest in any licensed organization  
694 or entity.

695 (5) This section shall not apply to a charitable  
696 organization described in Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has  
697 internal rules, regulations or guidelines for conducting bingo  
698 games, and such an organization shall not be subject to regulation  
699 by the commission.

700 SECTION 15. Section 97-33-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
701 amended as follows:

702           97-33-51. (1) The provisions of Sections 97-33-1 through  
703 97-33-49 shall not apply to any raffle wherein a ticket is sold  
704 and a prize is offered when such raffle is being held by and for  
705 the benefit of any nonprofit civic, educational, wildlife  
706 conservation or religious organization with all proceeds going to  
707 said organization.

708           (2) The provisions of Sections 97-33-1 through 97-33-49  
709 shall not apply to any bingo game wherein a prize is offered when  
710 such bingo game is being held in accordance with the provisions of  
711 the Charitable Bingo Law. Sections 97-33-1 through 97-33-49 shall  
712 not apply to any bingo game wherein a prize is offered when such  
713 bingo game is being held by a charitable organization described in  
714 Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has internal rules, regulations or  
715 guidelines for conducting bingo games.

716           (3) A bingo game or a raffle held pursuant to the provisions  
717 of the Charitable Bingo Law shall not be considered a game or  
718 gambling game for the purposes of Section 75-76-1 et seq. A bingo  
719 game or raffle held by a charitable organization described in  
720 Section 97-33-53(b)(i)1. that has internal rules, regulations or  
721 guidelines for conducting bingo games shall not be considered a  
722 game or gambling game for the purposes of Section 75-76-1 et seq.

723           SECTION 16. Section 97-33-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
724 brought forward as follows:

725           97-33-50. The provisions of Sections 97-33-51 through  
726 97-33-81, 97-33-101 through 97-33-109, 97-33-201 and 97-33-203,  
727 Mississippi Code of 1972, may be cited as the "Charitable Bingo  
728 Law."

729           SECTION 17. Section 97-33-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

730 brought forward as follows:

731 97-33-53. As used in Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203,  
732 the following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed  
733 herein unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

734 (a) "Bingo" means a game of chance in which a right to  
735 participate is sold to a player and prizes are awarded, that is:

736 (i) Played with a card, sheet, or an electronic  
737 representation thereof, bearing numbers or symbols;

738 (ii) Played with the participant covering, marking  
739 or revealing the numbers or symbols, as objects similarly numbered  
740 or designated are drawn from a receptacle and orally called; in  
741 the case of electronic representations, the requisite covering,  
742 marking or revealing may be accomplished electronically to match  
743 objects similarly numbered or designated and stored in memory in  
744 advance as winners, or which are generated randomly by an  
745 electronic process;

746 (iii) Won by the player who first covers, marks or  
747 reveals a previously designated arrangement of numbers or symbols;  
748 and

749 (iv) Played on the premises of a licensed  
750 organization and during the organization's regular hours of  
751 conducting bingo games.

752 The term "bingo" includes pull-tabs made available as a  
753 companion game to bingo and played on the premises. The term  
754 "bingo" does not include any game which is played via television,  
755 telephone, satellite dish or any other telecommunications  
756 transmission or receiving device.

757 Any electronic device used to produce an electronic

758 representation must maintain an inventory recorded in computed  
759 memory, not on cartridge memory, of the number of winners and  
760 losers. It must also be equipped with tamper-proof electric  
761 meters as a backup to the computer memory. It may not dispense  
762 cash or coins. Paybacks will be dispensed by printed ticket only.  
763 The printer shall maintain duplicate records of all transactions.  
764 All such electronic devices shall be approved by the Mississippi  
765 Gaming Commission.

766 (b) "Charitable organization" means:

767 (i) Any nonprofit organization domiciled in this  
768 state that is tax exempt under Section 501(c) or (d) of the United  
769 States Internal Revenue Code and which has on file with the  
770 Mississippi Gaming Commission either a tax exemption letter issued  
771 by the United States Internal Revenue Service, or a certified copy  
772 of its application for such tax exempt status if the commission  
773 determines that the organization is likely to be granted the tax  
774 exempt status, and is:

775 1. Any chapter or post domiciled in this  
776 state of a nationally chartered organization whose membership is  
777 composed of former members of the military forces of the United  
778 States of America or whose membership is composed of members of  
779 the Merchant Marine Veterans Association; or

780 2. Any nonprofit civic, educational, wildlife  
781 conservation organization or religious organization domiciled in  
782 this state.

783 If an organization which has on file with the commission a  
784 certified copy of its application for a tax exemption under  
785 Section 501(c) or (d) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code is not

786 granted the exemption within twelve (12) months from the date of  
787 such application, the organization's license shall be subject to  
788 revocation pursuant to Section 97-33-61.

789 (ii) Any senior citizen recreation club, which is  
790 defined as an organization sanctioned by the local council on  
791 aging and composed of members aged sixty (60) years or older, the  
792 sole function of which is to provide amusement and diversion for  
793 its members.

794 (c) "Commission" means the Mississippi Gaming  
795 Commission.

796 (d) "Distributor" means any person or other entity who  
797 sells, offers for sale or otherwise furnishes to any person,  
798 gaming supplies or equipment for use in the conducting of a bingo  
799 game authorized by Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203.

800 (e) "Manufacturer" means any person or other entity who  
801 manufactures for sale, offers for sale, or otherwise furnishes,  
802 any gaming supplies or equipment for use in the conducting of a  
803 bingo game authorized by Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203.

804 (f) "Commercial lessor" means any person or other  
805 entity, other than a bona fide nonprofit organization licensed to  
806 conduct charitable bingo games, who leases any building, structure  
807 or premises to organizations licensed under the provisions of  
808 Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203.

809 (g) "Operator" means a person or other entity who  
810 supplies the charity an electronic facsimile pull-tab device or  
811 labor saving device as described in Section 97-33-53. This person  
812 or entity may not be engaged in any other form of bingo operations  
813 such as a distributor, manufacturer, charity or commercial lessor.

814           (h) "Pull-tabs" means single or banded tickets or cards  
815 each with its face covered to conceal one or more numbers or  
816 symbols, where one or more cards or tickets in each set have been  
817 designed in advance as winners. "Pull-tabs" shall also mean any  
818 device for dispensing pull-tabs.

819           (i) "Session" means any five-hour time period within  
820 one (1) day or six-hour time period within one (1) week.

821           (j) "Day" means the whole or any part of the time  
822 period of twenty-four (24) hours from midnight to midnight.

823           (k) "Week" means the seven-day period from 12:01 a.m.  
824 on Monday until midnight the following Sunday.

825           SECTION 18. Section 97-33-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
826 brought forward as follows:

827           97-33-57. (1) The commission shall investigate the  
828 qualifications of each applicant and the merits of the  
829 application, with due expedition after the filing of the  
830 application, and shall make the following determinations:

831           (a) That the applicant is duly qualified to hold,  
832 operate and conduct bingo games under the provisions of Sections  
833 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 and the rules and regulations of the  
834 commission governing same.

835           (b) That the member or members of the organization  
836 designated in the application to hold, operate, conduct, or assist  
837 in holding, operating, or conducting, the bingo games are bona  
838 fide active members of the organization and of good moral  
839 character, who have never been convicted of certain offenses as  
840 designated by the commission.

841           (c) That bingo games are to be held, operated and

842 conducted in accordance with the provisions of Sections 97-33-51  
843 through 97-33-203 and in accordance with the rules and regulations  
844 of the commission governing same, and that the proceeds thereof  
845 are to be disposed of as provided by Sections 97-33-51 through  
846 97-33-203.

847 (2) If the commission is satisfied that no commission,  
848 salary, compensation, reward or recompense whatever, except as  
849 otherwise provided in Section 97-33-69, will be paid or given to  
850 any person holding, operating or conducting any bingo game, it may  
851 issue a license to the applicant for the holding, operating and  
852 conducting of bingo games.

853 (3) No license for holding, operating or conducting bingo  
854 games that is issued under Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203  
855 shall be effective for more than one (1) calendar year.

856 (4) The commission shall not issue a license to:

857 (a) Any person who has been convicted of certain  
858 related offenses as established by the commission or who presently  
859 has such a charge pending in any state or federal court;

860 (b) Any person who has ever been convicted of a  
861 gambling-related offense in any state or federal court;

862 (c) Any person who is or has ever been a professional  
863 gambler;

864 (d) Any firm, organization or corporation in which any  
865 person as described in paragraphs (a) through (c) is an officer or  
866 director, whether compensated or not, or in which such person has  
867 a direct or indirect financial interest;

868 (e) The commission may deny an application for  
869 licensure, refuse to renew a license, or suspend or revoke a

870 license for any reason consistent with the purposes of Sections  
871 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 which it deems to be in the interest of  
872 the public. However, policies regarding such denial, suspension,  
873 revocation or refusal to renew shall be established by rule and  
874 regulation. If the commission fails to act upon the license  
875 application within sixty (60) days of the date of filing of the  
876 application by the charitable organization, such application shall  
877 be deemed accepted.

878 (5) Any significant change in the information submitted on  
879 its application for licensure shall be filed by a licensee with  
880 the commission within ten (10) days of the change. A significant  
881 change shall include but not be limited to any change in the  
882 officers, directors, managers, proprietors or persons having a  
883 direct or indirect financial interest in any licensed organization  
884 or entity.

885 SECTION 19. Section 97-33-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
886 brought forward as follows:

887 97-33-59. (1) The commission may issue a special license  
888 for the conducting of limited fund-raising bingo games for the  
889 benefit of a person, family or group of persons who, because of  
890 circumstances which cause a financial crisis of an emergency  
891 nature, are in need of immediate fund-raising relief. Bingo games  
892 conducted under this section shall consist of no more than two (2)  
893 bingo sessions annually by the same person, family or group of  
894 persons, at which the total amount of prizes which may be awarded  
895 on any calendar day under such a license shall not exceed Fifteen  
896 Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) in cash or other thing or things of  
897 value. Except as otherwise provided in this section or as may be



898 otherwise provided by Section 97-33-69(10) or 97-33-107(k), all  
899 other provisions of Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 shall  
900 apply to the issuance of such special licenses.

901 (2) The commission shall not authorize any organization to  
902 conduct limited bingo games as described in subsection (1) as  
903 provided herein unless that organization has first obtained a  
904 special charitable limited license from the commission.

905 (3) All proceeds derived from bingo games conducted under a  
906 special charitable limited license shall go to the specific need  
907 for which the games are conducted, as outlined in the application  
908 for such license.

909 (4) The fee for a special charitable limited license shall  
910 be limited to the actual administrative costs of issuing it.

911 SECTION 20. Section 97-33-61, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
912 brought forward as follows:

913 97-33-61. No license shall be revoked by the commission  
914 until after a hearing is held on due notice. The commission may  
915 designate a hearing examiner to hear the case and render a  
916 decision. A licensee aggrieved by the decision of the hearing  
917 examiner may apply within fifteen (15) days after announcement of  
918 the decision in writing to the commission for review of the  
919 decision. Review is limited to the record of proceedings before  
920 the hearing examiner. The commission may sustain or reverse the  
921 hearing examiner's decision.

922 Any person aggrieved by the final decision of the commission  
923 may obtain a judicial review thereof in the circuit court of the  
924 county in which the bingo games are conducted. The judicial  
925 review must be instituted by filing a petition within ten (10)

926 days after the decision is rendered.

927 SECTION 21. Section 97-33-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
928 brought forward as follows:

929 97-33-101. All fees and fines collected by the commission  
930 pursuant to Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 shall be deposited  
931 into a special fund to be known as the "Charitable Bingo Fund,"  
932 which is hereby created in the State Treasury. The monies in such  
933 fund shall be used exclusively to support the activities of the  
934 commission related to the regulation of the Charitable Bingo Law,  
935 upon appropriation by the Legislature. Unexpended amounts  
936 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse  
937 into the State General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in  
938 such special fund shall be deposited to the credit of the special  
939 fund.

940 SECTION 22. Section 97-33-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
941 brought forward as follows:

942 97-33-103. (1) The commission shall annually prepare and  
943 submit a comprehensive report on the scope and nature of  
944 charitable bingo game activities in this state and impact of the  
945 commission on such activities. The report shall be submitted to  
946 the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
947 Representatives, the Chairmen of the House and Senate Judiciary  
948 Committees, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and  
949 the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

950 (2) The commission shall furnish a copy of its rules and  
951 regulations, including any amendments thereto as they are adopted,  
952 pursuant to the Charitable Bingo Law, to the Chairman and Counsel  
953 of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Chairman and Counsel

954 of the Senate Finance Committee. Further, upon a written request  
955 from any member of the Legislature, the commission shall furnish  
956 such rules and regulations to the member, by return United States  
957 mail.

958 SECTION 23. Section 97-33-105, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
959 brought forward as follows:

960 97-33-105. Neither the director nor any employee of the  
961 commission shall be an officer, director or manager of any  
962 organization licensed by the state to conduct charitable bingo  
963 games or have a direct or indirect financial interest in any  
964 entity manufacturing or distributing supplies or equipment used in  
965 such games.

966 SECTION 24. Section 97-33-203, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
967 brought forward as follows:

968 97-33-203. (1) No lease of any premises by a commercial  
969 lessor to any charitable organization for a charitable bingo game  
970 shall provide for payment in excess of the reasonable market  
971 rental rate for such premises. The commission shall determine  
972 whether a market rental rate for such premises is reasonable. No  
973 lease shall provide for rental for less than a five-hour session.  
974 No more than two (2) sessions shall be conducted within one (1)  
975 day and more often than eight (8) sessions in any one (1) week on  
976 the premises of a commercial lessor. Any licensee who holds no  
977 more than one (1) session per week shall be entitled to conduct  
978 one (1) six-hour session per week.

979 (2) No commercial lessor shall require the payment of any  
980 other cost or fee from an organization licensed to hold, operate  
981 or conduct bingo games other than the rental amount provided for

982 by the rental agreement or contract or charge admission fees to  
983 persons entering the premises to participate in the games.

984 (3) No commercial lessor leasing premises for authorized  
985 charitable bingo game activities shall enter into any agreement  
986 with a distributor of gaming supplies for the use, purchase,  
987 promotion or sale of supplies to be used in such bingo games.

988 SECTION 25. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
989 and after July 1, 2000.