

By: Representatives Hines, Buck

To: Gaming; Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1329

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-33-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS LICENSED TO  
3 CONDUCT BINGO GAMES MAY BE ISSUED A LICENSE TO CONDUCT BINGO GAMES  
4 FOR FIVE YEARS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-33-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 97-33-57. (1) The commission shall investigate the  
9 qualifications of each applicant and the merits of the  
10 application, with due expedition after the filing of the  
11 application, and shall make the following determinations:

12 (a) That the applicant is duly qualified to hold,  
13 operate and conduct bingo games under the provisions of Sections  
14 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 and the rules and regulations of the  
15 commission governing same.

16 (b) That the member or members of the organization  
17 designated in the application to hold, operate, conduct, or assist  
18 in holding, operating, or conducting, the bingo games are bona  
19 fide active members of the organization and of good moral  
20 character, who have never been convicted of certain offenses as  
21 designated by the commission.

22 (c) That bingo games are to be held, operated and  
23 conducted in accordance with the provisions of Sections 97-33-51  
24 through 97-33-203 and in accordance with the rules and regulations  
25 of the commission governing same, and that the proceeds thereof  
26 are to be disposed of as provided by Sections 97-33-51 through  
27 97-33-203.

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

34           (3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), no  
35 license for holding, operating or conducting bingo games that is  
36 issued under Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 shall be  
37 effective for more than one (1) calendar year.

38                     (b) The license issued to a charitable organization  
39 designated as Class "A" under the classification set forth in  
40 Section 97-33-107(k) may be effective for five (5) calendar years,  
41 if the organization has lawfully conducted bingo games for at  
42 least seven (7) calendar years and has been in good standing with  
43 the commission for a minimum of three (3) successive calendar  
44 years.

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

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

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

51                     (c) Any person who is or has ever been a professional  
52 gambler;

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

57                     (e) The commission may deny an application for  
58 licensure, refuse to renew a license, or suspend or revoke a  
59 license for any reason consistent with the purposes of Sections  
60 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 which it deems to be in the interest of

61 the public. However, policies regarding such denial, suspension,  
62 revocation or refusal to renew shall be established by rule and  
63 regulation. If the commission fails to act upon the license  
64 application within sixty (60) days of the date of filing of the  
65 application by the charitable organization, such application shall  
66 be deemed accepted.

67 (5) Any significant change in the information submitted on  
68 its application for licensure shall be filed by a licensee with  
69 the commission within ten (10) days of the change. A significant  
70 change shall include, but not be limited to, any change in the  
71 officers, directors, managers, proprietors or persons having a  
72 direct or indirect financial interest in any licensed organization  
73 or entity.

74 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
75 and after July 1, 2006.