

By: Representative Hines

To: Gaming

HOUSE BILL NO. 599
(As Sent to Governor)

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 UP TO THREE 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) No license for holding, operating or conducting bingo
35 games that is issued under Sections 97-33-51 through 97-33-203
36 shall be effective for more than three (3) calendar years.

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

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

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

43 (c) Any person who is or has ever been a professional
44 gambler;

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

49 (e) The commission may deny an application for
50 licensure, refuse to renew a license, or suspend or revoke a
51 license for any reason consistent with the purposes of Sections
52 97-33-51 through 97-33-203 which it deems to be in the interest of
53 the public. However, policies regarding such denial, suspension,
54 revocation or refusal to renew shall be established by rule and
55 regulation. If the commission fails to act upon the license
56 application within sixty (60) days of the date of filing of the
57 application by the charitable organization, such application shall
58 be deemed accepted.

59 (5) Any significant change in the information submitted on
60 its application for licensure shall be filed by a licensee with

61 the commission within ten (10) days of the change. A significant
62 change shall include, but not be limited to, any change in the
63 officers, directors, managers, proprietors or persons having a
64 direct or indirect financial interest in any licensed organization
65 or entity.

66 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
67 and after July 1, 2007.