



*Matthew J. Lohr*  
*Commissioner*

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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June 2, 2010

Dear Charitable Gaming Stakeholder:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of changes to the charitable gaming statute resulting from House Bill 950 of the 2010 session of the Virginia General Assembly. Governor McDonnell signed the bill into law and the changes become effective July 1, 2010.

Although some of these changes are self-explanatory, we wanted to provide you basic guidance to help facilitate your continued compliance with the statute and the regulations, particularly with respect to progressive games.

The changes in the statute also necessitated changes to some of our forms, so please ensure that you utilize the most current version of the Office of Charitable Gaming forms that are applicable to your organization. The forms are available from our website at [www.dcg.virginia.gov/forms](http://www.dcg.virginia.gov/forms).

### **Major provisions of House Bill 950**

- The bill eliminated "winner take all" bingo games.
- The bill provides that regulations promulgated by the Charitable Gaming Board shall include the capacity for equipment used in the conduct of charitable gaming to provide full automatic daubing as numbers are called.\*
- The bill allows individuals who are not members of the organization that is conducting a particular bingo game to participate in the conduct of bingo as long as the non-member is under the direct supervision of a bona fide member of the organization during the game.
- The bill capped the number of bingo games per session at 55.

### **Progressive Games**

- The bill deleted references to "Lucky Seven" games in favor of the term "progressive" bingo games. Organizations will be allowed to play up to six progressive bingo games per session per organization. This does not mean that "Lucky Seven" games are prohibited. Rather, "Lucky Seven" will be one type of progressive game that organizations may elect to play.
- All provisions in the statute regarding progressive games, including the initial prize amount, rate of prize increase, maximum prize amount, manner in which bingo cards or sheets for progressive

games are sold, accounting requirements for proceeds, etc., remain unchanged. Organizations, at their discretion, may elect to sell the sheets for progressive games either as single sheets or as packs.

- The choice of patterns and the number of progressive games played --up to a maximum of six progressive games per session-- are entirely up to the individual charitable gaming organization. This information must be printed on the game program.
- For each type of progressive game selected, organizations must determine in advance the maximum number of balls that will be called during the first gaming session that the particular progressive game is played. NOTE: Most vendors and suppliers of bingo paper and devices have listings of bingo patterns and related statistics such as the average number of calls, the average number of winners, etc., relative to the total number of non-duplicate cards in play. This information can help organizations select the patterns they would like to use for their progressive games based on their own business needs, attendance levels, etc., and it will help ensure that the manner in which the progressive games are played does in fact lead to progression. Please consult your supplier or visit the websites of any of the major vendors for this information.
- Each progressive game, its prize, and the number of balls to be called shall be clearly announced before the progressive game is played.
- If a progressive game is not won within the prescribed number of balls called, the number of balls called will be increased by one (1) ball each subsequent session the progressive game is played.
- If the predetermined pattern is not covered with the prescribed number of balls called for that progressive game, then the game will continue until the pattern is covered, in which case only a regular bingo prize will be awarded.

The Office of Charitable Gaming is committed to collaborating with all stakeholders in order to continue to advance the professionalism of the industry and help maximize the funds raised by charitable organizations. Please contact your regional charitable gaming inspector or call our main number, (804) 225-2598, should you require additional information. For a full list of contacts, please visit our website at [www.dcg.virginia.gov](http://www.dcg.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,



Andres Alvarez  
Director, Division of Consumer Protection

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\* The Office of Charitable Gaming and the Charitable Gaming Board are working on amending 11 VAC 15-22, Charitable Gaming Rules and Regulations, and 11 VAC 15 -31, Supplier Regulations. If you wish to be kept abreast of regulatory activities pertaining to charitable gaming, you are encouraged to sign up for the E-mail notification service offered by the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall at [www.townhall.virginia.gov](http://www.townhall.virginia.gov).