



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DIVISION OF SPECIAL REVENUE
CHARITABLE GAMES
P.O. BOX 310424
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-0424

June 10, 2008

Dear Superintendent of Schools:

I am writing to inform you that the General Assembly has passed, and Governor Rell approved, Public Act No. 08-62 titled **An Act Creating An Exemption From Permit Requirements For Parent Teacher Association Conducted Bingo** (copy enclosed). This new law took effect from passage and is intended to enable parent teacher associations or organizations (PTAs/PTOs) to conduct bingo for the amusement and recreation of members and guests, without having to meet regulatory requirements which are in place for organizations conducting bingo for fundraising purposes.*

With the new Amusement and Recreation Bingo, a PTA/PTO:

1. Will be able to register with the Division annually, at a cost of twenty dollars, and will be entitled to conduct an unlimited number of bingo sessions throughout the year, for amusement and recreation purposes.
2. Will not need to have its volunteer bingo workers register with the Division and obtain personal identification numbers.
3. Will not have to file a Ten Day Bingo Report return following each session of bingo and will not have to pay the State a regulation fee payment.

This new law was enacted to allow PTAs/PTOs to have fun filled family events with children, at which the popular game of bingo can be enjoyed by all.

Under the new law:

1. A PTA/PTO must register annually with the Division and obtain an identification number.
2. A PTA/PTO may charge an admission fee of not more than one dollar.
3. Each individual prize of cash or merchandise offered may not exceed twenty dollars in value.

**Amusement & Recreation Bingo for PTA/PTO Organizations
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4. Only active members of any PTA/PTO may assist in the operation of the games of bingo and assist without compensation.
5. Each PTA/PTO shall keep accurate records of receipts and disbursements related to its bingo and such records shall be available for inspection by the Executive Director of the Division of Special Revenue.

Under proposed Division regulations, which have yet to be promulgated, the price of a bingo card or sheet shall not be more than fifty cents, and a PTA/PTO would have to file a notification of event form with the Executive Director stating the date, time and place where any bingo will be conducted, at least seven business days prior to the date of any such bingo event. Such a form would be able to be faxed to the Division.

Interested PTAs/PTOs may contact the Charitable Games Unit of the Division at 1-800-338-6331 or (860) 594-5480, Monday – Friday, from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, for information or assistance in addressing this newly authorized bingo.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Very truly yours,



Paul D. Bernstein
Unit Head/Charitable Games

PDB:vp

Enclosures

* The statutory/regulatory requirements for organizations desiring to conduct bingo for fundraising purposes remain in effect. PTAs/PTOs desiring to use bingo as a fundraiser must still meet the requirements for such bingo. The newly authorized Amusement and Recreation Bingo is for low stakes, fun filled family or organizational activity; however, it has not replaced the traditional bingo conducted for fundraising purposes.



House Bill No. 5645

Public Act No. 08-62

AN ACT CREATING AN EXEMPTION FROM PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION CONDUCTED BINGO.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Any parent teacher association or organization may operate and conduct games of bingo, as defined in section 7-169 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes, for the amusement and recreation of such association's or organization's members and guests without a permit, as required by said section, provided (1) such association or organization registers annually with the Division of Special Revenue and pays an annual registration fee of twenty dollars, (2) such association or organization obtains an identification number from the division, (3) such association or organization charges an admission fee of not more than one dollar, (4) each individual prize of cash or merchandise offered does not exceed twenty dollars in value, and (5) only active members of such association or organization assist in the operation of the games of bingo and assist without compensation. The executive director of the Division of Special Revenue may revoke any such registration for cause. Any registration fees collected in accordance with this subsection shall be remitted to the state.

(b) Each such association or organization shall keep accurate records of receipts and disbursements related to such games of bingo, and such records shall be available for inspection by the executive director.

(c) Each such association or organization shall be exempt from the requirements of sections 7-169 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes and 7-169a of the general statutes.

(d) The executive director of the Division of Special Revenue, in consultation with the Gaming Policy Board, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section in order to prevent fraud and protect the public.