

CHAPTER 349

BINGO

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349.01 DECLARATION OF POLICY. The increasing commercialization in the conduct of the game "bingo" is contrary to public policy and deleterious to the morals of the citizens of this state. The purpose of sections 349.01 to 349.03 is to limit legalized "bingo" to a mild form of social recreation designed to raise funds for the benefit of religious, charitable, fraternal, or other associations, not organized for pecuniary profit, and duly existing under the laws of this state.

[1963 c 855 s 1]

349.02 BINGO DEFINED. For the purposes of sections 349.02 and 349.03 "bingo" is a game where each player has a card or board containing five horizontal rows all but the central one containing five figures. The central row has four figures with the word "free" marked in the center thereof. Any preannounced combination of spaces when completed by a player constitutes "bingo." In the absence of a preannouncement of a combination of spaces, any combination of five in a row whether horizontal or vertical when completed by a player constitutes "bingo," and the central row either horizontal, vertical, or diagonal constitutes "bingo" when its four numbers are announced and covered. A wheel or other mechanical device may be used by any person conducting the game of "bingo," and any such person may award either money or merchandise to any player or players first completing any combination constituting "bingo."

[1945 c 419 s 1; 1963 c 855 s 2]

349.03 ASSOCIATIONS PERMITTED TO CONDUCT BINGO; VIOLATIONS. Subdivision 1. The game "bingo" as defined in section 349.02 shall not be construed as a lottery or as gambling within the meaning of sections 609.75 to 609.76, provided that:

(a) Such game is conducted by a religious, charitable, fraternal, or other association, not organized for pecuniary profit, and duly existing under the laws of the state of Minnesota;

(b) The proceeds therefrom do not inure to the benefit of any individual;

(c) No compensation of any kind in excess of \$8 in value is paid to any person for services rendered during any bingo session in connection with the conduct of the game; the provisions of this clause (c) shall not apply to games conducted in connection with any of the following events: A county fair conducted by a county agricultural society or association, the state fair conducted by the state agricultural society, or a civic celebration recognized by resolution or other similar official action of the governing body of a city, village, or borough;

(d) Such association before conducting such game gives 30 days written notice of the time and place thereof to the governing body of the county, city, village, town, or borough in which it intends to conduct such game, and such governing body does not pass a resolution objecting thereto.

Subd. 2. Any association or person who violates this section, and any person who accepts excessive compensation of any kind for services rendered in connection with the conduct of such game shall be guilty of a violation of section 609.76.

[1945 c 419 s 2; 1963 c 753 art 2 s 9; 1963 c 855 s 3; 1965 c 51 s 83]