

## CHAPTER 349

## LAWFUL GAMBLING AND GAMBLING DEVICES

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**349.12 DEFINITIONS.**

*[For text of subds 1 to 15, see M.S.1994]*

Subd. 15a. **Festival organization.** "Festival organization" is an organization conducting a community festival that is exempt from the payment of federal income taxes under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

*[For text of subds 16 to 24, see M.S.1994]*

Subd. 25. **Lawful purpose.** (a) "Lawful purpose" means one or more of the following:

(1) any expenditure by or contribution to a 501(c)(3) or festival organization, as defined in subdivision 15a, provided that the organization and expenditure or contribution are in conformity with standards prescribed by the board under section 349.154, which standards must apply to both types of organizations in the same manner and to the same extent;

(2) a contribution to an individual or family suffering from poverty, homelessness, or physical or mental disability, which is used to relieve the effects of that poverty, homelessness, or disability;

(3) a contribution to an individual for treatment for delayed posttraumatic stress syndrome or a contribution to a program recognized by the Minnesota department of human services for the education, prevention, or treatment of compulsive gambling;

(4) a contribution to or expenditure on a public or private nonprofit educational institution registered with or accredited by this state or any other state;

(5) a contribution to a scholarship fund for defraying the cost of education to individuals where the funds are awarded through an open and fair selection process;

(6) activities by an organization or a government entity which recognize humanitarian or military service to the United States, the state of Minnesota, or a community, subject to rules of the board, provided that the rules must not include mileage reimbursements in the computation of the per occasion reimbursement limit and must impose no aggregate annual limit on the amount of reasonable and necessary expenditures made to support:

(i) members of a military marching or colorguard unit for activities conducted within the state; or

(ii) members of an organization solely for services performed by the members at funeral services;

(7) recreational, community, and athletic facilities and activities intended primarily for persons under age 21, provided that such facilities and activities do not discriminate on the basis of gender and the organization complies with section 349.154;

(8) payment of local taxes authorized under this chapter, taxes imposed by the United States on receipts from lawful gambling, the taxes imposed by section 297E.02, subdivisions 1, 4, 5, and 6, and the tax imposed on unrelated business income by section 290.05, subdivision 3;

(9) payment of real estate taxes and assessments on permitted gambling premises wholly owned by the licensed organization paying the taxes, not to exceed:

(i) for premises used for bingo, the amount that an organization may expend under board rules on rent for bingo; and

(ii) \$35,000 per year for premises used for other forms of lawful gambling;

(10) a contribution to the United States, this state or any of its political subdivisions, or any agency or instrumentality thereof other than a direct contribution to a law enforcement or prosecutorial agency;

(11) a contribution to or expenditure by a nonprofit organization which is a church or body of communicants gathered in common membership for mutual support and edification in piety, worship, or religious observances;

(12) payment of one-half of the reasonable costs of an audit required in section 297E.06, subdivision 4;

(13) a contribution to or expenditure on a wildlife management project that benefits the public at-large, provided that the state agency with authority over that wildlife management project approves the project before the contribution or expenditure is made; or

(14) expenditures, approved by the commissioner of natural resources, by an organization for grooming and maintaining snowmobile trails that are (1) grant-in-aid trails established under section 85.019, or (2) other trails open to public use, including purchase or lease of equipment for this purpose.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), "lawful purpose" does not include:

(1) any expenditure made or incurred for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of a candidate for public office or for the purpose of promoting or defeating a ballot question;

(2) any activity intended to influence an election or a governmental decision-making process;

(3) the erection, acquisition, improvement, expansion, repair, or maintenance of real property or capital assets owned or leased by an organization, unless the board has first specifically authorized the expenditures after finding that (i) the real property or capital assets will be used exclusively for one or more of the purposes in paragraph (a); (ii) with respect to expenditures for repair or maintenance only, that the property is or will be used extensively as a meeting place or event location by other nonprofit organizations or community or service groups and that no rental fee is charged for the use; (iii) with respect to expenditures, including a mortgage payment or other debt service payment, for erection or acquisition only, that the erection or acquisition is necessary to replace with a comparable building, a building owned by the organization and destroyed or made uninhabitable by fire or natural disaster, provided that the expenditure may be only for that part of the replacement cost not reimbursed by insurance; or (iv) with respect to expenditures, including a mortgage payment or other debt service payment, for erection or acquisition only, that the erection or acquisition is necessary to replace with a comparable building a building owned by the organization that was acquired from the organization by eminent domain or sold by the organization to a purchaser that the organization reasonably believed would otherwise have acquired the building by eminent domain, provided that the expenditure may be only for that part of the replacement cost that exceeds the compensation received by the organization for the building being replaced;

(4) an expenditure by an organization which is a contribution to a parent organization, foundation, or affiliate of the contributing organization, if the parent organization, foundation, or affiliate has provided to the contributing organization within one year of the contribution any money, grants, property, or other thing of value;

(5) a contribution by a licensed organization to another licensed organization unless the board has specifically authorized the contribution. The board must authorize such a contribution when requested to do so by the contributing organization unless it makes an affirmative finding that the contribution will not be used by the recipient organization for one or more of the purposes in paragraph (a); or

(6) a contribution to a statutory or home rule charter city, county, or town by a licensed organization with the knowledge that the governmental unit intends to use the contribution for a pension or retirement fund.

*[For text of subs 26 to 35, see M.S.1994]*

**History:** 1995 c 186 s 68; 1995 c 261 s 20,21; 1995 c 264 art 9 s 9

### 349.151 GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD.

*[For text of subs 1 to 4a, see M.S.1994]*

Subd. 4b. **Pull-tab sales from dispensing devices.** (a) The board may by rule authorize but not require the use of pull-tab dispensing devices.

(b) Rules adopted under paragraph (a):

(1) must limit the number of pull-tab dispensing devices on any permitted premises to three;

(2) must limit the use of pull-tab dispensing devices to a permitted premises which is (i) a licensed premises for on-sales of intoxicating liquor or 3.2 percent malt beverages or (ii) a licensed bingo hall that allows gambling only by persons 18 years or older; and

(3) must prohibit the use of pull-tab dispensing devices at any licensed premises where pull-tabs are sold other than through a pull-tab dispensing device by an employee of the organization who is also the lessor or an employee of the lessor.

(c) The director may charge a manufacturer a fee of up to \$5,000 per pull-tab dispensing device to cover the costs of services provided by an independent testing laboratory to perform testing and analysis of pull-tab dispensing devices. The director shall deposit in a separate account in the state treasury all money the director receives as reimbursement for the costs of services provided by independent testing laboratories that have entered into contracts with the state to perform testing and analysis of pull-tab dispensing devices. Money in the account is appropriated to the director to pay the costs of services under those contracts.

*[For text of subds 5 to 12, see M.S.1994]*

Subd. 13. **Rulemaking.** In addition to any authority to adopt rules specifically authorized under this chapter, the board may adopt, amend, or repeal rules under chapter 14, when necessary or proper in discharging the board's powers and duties.

**History:** 1995 c 233 art 2 s 56; 1995 c 254 art 1 s 78

### 349.162 EQUIPMENT REGISTERED.

Subdivision 1. **Stamp required.** (a) A distributor may not sell, transfer, furnish, or otherwise provide to a person, and no person may purchase, borrow, accept, or acquire from a distributor gambling equipment for use within the state unless the equipment has been registered with the board and has a registration stamp affixed, except for gambling equipment not stamped by the manufacturer pursuant to section 349.163, subdivision 5 or 8. The board shall charge a fee of five cents for each stamp. Each stamp must bear a registration number assigned by the board. A distributor or manufacturer is entitled to a refund for unused registration stamps and replacement for registration stamps which are defective or canceled by the distributor or manufacturer.

(b) A manufacturer must return all unused registration stamps in its possession to the board by February 1, 1995. No manufacturer may possess unaffixed registration stamps after February 1, 1995.

(c) After February 1, 1996, no person may possess any unplayed pull-tab or tipboard deals with a registration stamp affixed to the flare or any unplayed paddleticket cards with a registration stamp affixed to the master flare. This paragraph does not apply to unplayed pull-tab or tipboard deals with a registration stamp affixed to the flare, or to unplayed paddleticket cards with a registration stamp affixed to the master flare, if the deals or cards are identified on a list of existing inventory submitted by a licensed organization or a licensed distributor, in a format prescribed by the commissioner of revenue, to the commissioner of revenue on or before February 1, 1996. Gambling equipment kept in violation of this paragraph is contraband under section 349.2125.

*[For text of subds 2 to 6, see M.S.1994]*

**History:** 1995 c 261 s 22

### 349.163 LICENSING OF MANUFACTURERS.

*[For text of subds 1 to 4, see M.S.1994]*

Subd. 5. **Pull-tab and tipboard flares.** (a) A manufacturer may not ship or cause to be shipped into this state or sell for use or resale in this state any deal of pull-tabs or tipboards

that does not have its own individual flare as required for that deal by this subdivision and rule of the board. A person other than a manufacturer may not manufacture, alter, modify, or otherwise change a flare for a deal of pull-tabs or tipboards except as allowed by this chapter or board rules.

(b) A manufacturer must comply with either paragraphs (c) to (g) or (f) to (j) with respect to pull-tabs and tipboards sold by the manufacturer before January 1, 1995, for use or resale in Minnesota or shipped into or caused to be shipped into Minnesota by the manufacturer before January 1, 1995. A manufacturer must comply with paragraphs (f) to (j) with respect to pull-tabs and tipboards sold by the manufacturer on and after January 1, 1995, for use or resale in Minnesota or shipped into or caused to be shipped into Minnesota by the manufacturer on and after January 1, 1995. Paragraphs (c) to (e) expire January 1, 1995.

(c) The flare of each deal of pull-tabs and tipboards sold by a manufacturer for use or resale in Minnesota must have the Minnesota gambling stamp affixed. The flare, with the stamp affixed, must be placed inside the wrapping of the deal which the flare describes.

(d) Each pull-tab and tipboard flare must bear the following statement printed in letters large enough to be clearly legible:

“Pull-tab (or tipboard) purchasers — This pull-tab (or tipboard) game is not legal in Minnesota unless:

— a Minnesota gambling stamp is affixed to this sheet, and

— the serial number handwritten on the gambling stamp is the same as the serial number printed on this sheet and on the pull-tab (or tipboard) ticket you have purchased.”

(e) The flare of each pull-tab and tipboard game must bear the serial number of the game, printed in numbers at least one-half inch high and must be imprinted with the following:

(1) the name of the game;

(2) the name of the manufacturer;

(3) the number of tickets in the deal; and

(4) other information the board by rule requires.

(f) The flare of each pull-tab and tipboard game must have affixed to or imprinted at the bottom a bar code that provides all information required by the commissioner of revenue under section 297E.04, subdivision 2.

The serial number included in the bar code must be the same as the serial number of the tickets included in the deal. A manufacturer who manufactures a deal of pull-tabs must affix to the outside of the box containing that game the same bar code that is affixed to or imprinted at the bottom of a flare for that deal.

(g) No person may alter the bar code that appears on the outside of a box containing a deal of pull-tabs and tipboards. Possession of a box containing a deal of pull-tabs and tipboards that has a bar code different from the bar code of the deal inside the box is prima facie evidence that the possessor has altered the bar code on the box.

(h) The flare of each deal of pull-tabs and tipboards sold by a manufacturer for use or resale in Minnesota must have imprinted on it a symbol that is at least one inch high and one inch wide consisting of an outline of the geographic boundaries of Minnesota with the letters “MN” inside the outline. The flare must be placed inside the wrapping of the deal which the flare describes.

(i) Each pull-tab and tipboard flare must bear the following statement printed in letters large enough to be clearly legible:

“Pull-tab (or tipboard) purchasers — This pull-tab (or tipboard) game is not legal in Minnesota unless:

— an outline of Minnesota with letters “MN” inside it is imprinted on this sheet, and

— the serial number imprinted on the bar code at the bottom of this sheet is the same as the serial number on the pull-tab (or tipboard) ticket you have purchased.”

(j) The flare of each pull-tab and tipboard game must have the serial number of the game imprinted on the bar code at the bottom of the flare in numerals at least one-half inch high.

*[For text of subs 6 to 8, see M.S.1994]*

**History:** 1995 c 264 art 17 s 9

### 349.17 CONDUCT OF BINGO.

Subdivision 1. **Bingo occasions.** Not more than ten bingo occasions each week may be conducted by an organization. At least 15 bingo games must be held at each occasion and a bingo occasion must continue for at least 1-1/2 hours but not more than four consecutive hours.

*[For text of subs 2 to 5, see M.S.1994]*

Subd. 6. **Conduct of bingo.** (a) Each bingo hard card and paper sheets must have five horizontal rows of spaces with each row except one having five numbers. The center row must have four numbers and the center space marked "free." Each column must have one of the letters B-I-N-G-O in order at the top. Bingo paper sheets may also have numbers that are not preprinted but are filled in by players.

(b) A game of bingo begins with the first letter and number called. Each player must cover or mark with a liquid dauber the numbers when bingo balls, similarly numbered, are randomly drawn, announced, and displayed to the players, either manually or with a flash-board and monitor. The game is won when a player has covered or marked a previously designated arrangement of numbers on the card or sheet and declared bingo. The game is completed when a winning card or sheet is verified and a prize awarded.

**History:** 1995 c 186 s 69; 1995 c 261 s 23

### 349.191 SALES ON CREDIT.

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1994]*

Subd. 1a. **Credit and sales to delinquent organizations.** (a) If a distributor does not receive payment in full from an organization within 35 days of the delivery of gambling equipment, the distributor must notify the board in writing of the delinquency.

(b) If a distributor who has notified the board under paragraph (a) has not received payment in full from the organization within 60 days of the notification under paragraph (a), the distributor must notify the board of the continuing delinquency.

(c) On receipt of a notice under paragraph (a), the board shall order all distributors that until further notice from the board, they may sell gambling equipment to the delinquent organizations only on a cash basis with no credit extended. On receipt of a notice under paragraph (b), the board shall order all distributors not to sell any gambling equipment to the delinquent organization.

(d) No distributor may extend credit or sell gambling equipment to an organization in violation of an order under paragraph (c) until the board has authorized such credit or sale.

*[For text of subs 1b to 4, see M.S.1994]*

**History:** 1995 c 261 s 24

### 349.211 PRIZE LIMITS.

Subdivision 1. **Bingo.** Except as provided in subdivision 2, prizes for a single bingo game may not exceed \$100 except prizes for a cover-all game, which may exceed \$100 if the aggregate value of all cover-all prizes in a bingo occasion does not exceed \$1,000. Total prizes awarded at a bingo occasion may not exceed \$2,500, unless a cover-all game is played in which case the limit is \$3,500. A prize may be determined based on the value of the bingo packet sold to the player. For purposes of this subdivision, a cover-all game is one in which a player must cover all spaces except a single free space to win.

*[For text of subs 2 to 4, see M.S.1994]*

**History:** 1995 c 261 s 25

**349.213 LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1994]*

**Subd. 3. Local gambling tax.** A statutory or home rule charter city that has one or more licensed organizations operating lawful gambling, and a county that has one or more licensed organizations outside incorporated areas operating lawful gambling, may impose a local gambling tax on each licensed organization within the city's or county's jurisdiction. The tax may be imposed only if the amount to be received by the city or county is necessary to cover the costs incurred by the city or county to regulate lawful gambling. The tax imposed by this subdivision may not exceed three percent of the gross receipts of a licensed organization from all lawful gambling less prizes actually paid out by the organization. A city or county may not use money collected under this subdivision for any purpose other than to regulate lawful gambling. A tax imposed under this subdivision is in lieu of all other local taxes and local investigation fees on lawful gambling. A city or county that imposes a tax under this subdivision shall annually, by March 15, file a report with the board in a form prescribed by the board showing (1) the amount of revenue produced by the tax during the preceding calendar year, and (2) the use of the proceeds of the tax.

**History:** 1994 c 633 art 2 s 2; 1995 c 264 art 17 s 11