

Appendix B - A Brief History of Bingo Regulation in Kansas

Until 1974, the Kansas Constitution (Section 3 of Article 15) prohibited all lotteries, of which bingo is one type. Recognizing the existing practice of many churches and other charitable organizations of raising money through the conduct of bingo games, the 1974 Kansas Legislature overwhelmingly passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72 authorizing a vote of the people on the issue of whether to amend the Kansas Constitution to permit bingo for charitable purposes. The people approved the amendment, which reads as follows:

Section 3a. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3 of article 15 of the constitution of the state of Kansas the legislature may regulate, license and tax the operation or conduct of games of “bingo,” as defined by law, by bona fide nonprofit religious, charitable, fraternal, educational and veterans organizations.

The 1975 Legislature Session passed Senate Bill 116, which defined bingo and adopted restrictions on how, when and where bingo games could be conducted. Regulation of bingo games and collection of the bingo enforcement tax was delegated to the Director of Taxation, Kansas Department of Revenue.

Since 1975, the Kansas Legislature has fine-tuned the regulation of bingo with amendments passed in 1977, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1989 and 1993. In 1995, the Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1602 authorizing a vote of the people on the issue of whether to amend Section 3a of Article 15 of the Kansas Constitution to legalize the sale of “instant bingo” or pull tabs by bingo licensees. The people approved the amendment and the Legislature subsequently passed amendments to the bingo statutes defining instant bingo and the related regulatory provisions.

The Legislature passed House Bill 2013 in the 2000 session. This made major changes to the bingo statutes effective July 1, 2000, including the following:

- addition of progressive and mini ("early bird") call bingo games
- permitting a limited number of free raffles
- phase-out of the sales tax on bingo
- a new taxing mechanism for collecting the enforcement tax on call bingo
- creation of the position of Administrator of Charitable Gaming with KDOR.