SLS 23RS-369 ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

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SENATE BILL NO. 189

BY SENATOR JACKSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CHARITABLE GAMING. Provides relative to electronic or video bingo machines and licensed premises. (7/1/23)

AN ACT

2	To amend and reenact R.S. 4:724(J)(1)(a), the introductory paragraph of 724(J)(1)(b),
3	724(J)(2), and (K) and to enact R.S. 4:724(L), relative to electronic or video bingo;
4	to provide for operation of machines by a licensed distributor if certain criteria are
5	met; to provide for authorized locations; to provide for a replacement location in
6	certain circumstances; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
7	matters.
8	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
9	Section 1. R.S. 4:724(J)(1)(a), the introductory paragraph of 724(J)(1)(b), 724(J)(2),
10	and (K) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 4:724(L) is hereby enacted to read as
11	follows:
12	§724. Use of electronic or video bingo games
13	* * *
14	J.(1) Any person who is licensed as a distributor shall be permitted to operate
15	electronic video bingo machines which are not in compliance with the provisions of
16	R.S. 4:724(B)(5) if either of the following occurs:
17	(a) The licensed distributor has purchased or has entered into a lease

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agreement approved by the office for the total number of electronic video bingo machines to be placed at a specific location and the electronic video bingo machines have been permitted by the office and placed at a location which has been approved by the office on or prior to August 15, 2008; or June 1, 2022.

(b) The licensed distributor has delivered to the office or has sent by certified mail an application with the required fees to have electronic video bingo machines permitted, which application has been received, but not approved by the office on or prior to August 15, 2008, June 1, 2022, and the application includes one of the following:

\* \* \*

- (2) Electronic video bingo machines authorized by the provisions of this Subsection shall only be placed at one of the following locations:
- (a) A location which has been approved by the office on or prior to August 15, 2008; or June 1, 2022.
- (b) A location for which a completed application with the required fees for the licensing to conduct charitable gaming at a specific location has been received by the office on or prior to August 15, 2008. June 1, 2022. However, locations which have not been approved by the office prior to August 15, 2008, June 1, 2022, but for which an application has been timely filed as provided by this Subparagraph, shall have received final approval from the office and must be occupied by August 15, 2009, June 1, 2022, in order to operate electronic video bingo machines which are not in compliance with the provisions of R.S. 4:724(B)(5).

K. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section to the contrary, any electronic video bingo machine authorized pursuant to Subsection J of this Section which is destroyed or rendered inoperable in any manner may be replaced by an electronic video bingo machine of a similar make and model which is not in compliance with the provisions of R.S. 4:724(B)(5) even if such the replacement electronic video bingo machine was purchased after August 15, 2008. June 1, 2022.

## L. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section to the contrary,

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electronic or video bingo machines is destroyed or damaged as a result of a natural disaster, an act of God, force majeure, a catastrophe, or such other occurrence over which the organization has no control, then the office shall allow for a replacement location to be permitted in accordance with local zoning laws.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2023.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

DIGEST 2023 Regular Session

Jackson

SB 189 Original

<u>Present law</u> provides for operation of electronic video bingo machines, including a prohibition that an electronic video bingo machine shall not contain entertainment display features simulating slot reels or card games.

<u>Present law</u> provides that a licensed distributor may operate video bingo machines which are not in compliance with present law under either of the following circumstances:

- (1) The licensed distributor has purchased or entered into a lease agreement for the total number of electronic video bingo machines to be operated at a specific location on or prior to August 15, 2008.
- (2) The licensed distributor has delivered to the office of charitable gaming or sent by certified mail an application and fees to have machines permitted which has been received and not approved on or prior to August 15, 2008, and the application includes either a proof of purchase or a non-refundable deposit.

<u>Proposed law</u> expands the exception to include machines which were purchased or leased on or prior to June 1, 2022.

<u>Present law</u> provides that electronic video bingo machines authorized by <u>present law</u> may only be placed at the following two locations:

- (1) A location approved by the office on or prior to August 15, 2008.
- (2) A location for which a completed application with the required fees for the licensing to conduct charitable gaming at a specific location has been received by the office of charitable gaming on or prior to August 15, 2008, and which has received final approval from the office and was occupied by August 15, 2009.

<u>Proposed law</u> expands the exception to include a location approved by the office of charitable gaming or for which a completed application with the required fees was received prior to June 1, 2022.

<u>Present law</u> provides that any electronic video bingo machine which is destroyed or rendered inoperable in any manner may be replaced by an electronic video bingo machine of a similar make and model which is not in compliance with <u>present law</u> even if the replacement

Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

electronic video bingo machine was purchased after August 15, 2008.

<u>Proposed law</u> expands <u>present law</u> to allow replacement machines which were purchased or leased on or prior to June 1, 2022.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that if the physical location in which the charitable gaming organization operates electronic or video bingo machines is destroyed or damaged as a result of a natural disaster, an act of God, force majeure, a catastrophe, or such other occurrence over which the organization has no control, then the office of charitable gaming shall allow for a replacement location to be permitted in accordance with local zoning laws.

Effective July 1, 2023.

(Amends R.S. 4:724(J)(1)(a), 724(J)(1)(b)(intro para), 724(J)(2), and (K); adds R.S. 4:724(L))