

LEGISLATIVE BILL 286

Approved by the Governor May 13, 2009

Introduced by General Affairs Committee: Karpisek, 32, Chairperson; Coash, 27; Cook, 13; Dierks, 40; Friend, 10; Price, 3; Rogert, 16; Dubas, 34.

FOR AN ACT relating to gaming; to amend sections 9-255.04, 9-347, 9-347.01, and 9-812, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to definite profit under the Nebraska Bingo Act and the Nebraska Pickle Card Lottery Act; to change provisions relating to lottery funds; to provide operative dates; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 9-255.04, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

9-255.04 (1) No expense shall be incurred or amounts paid in connection with the conduct of bingo by a licensed organization except those which are reasonable and necessary.

(2) A licensed organization shall not spend more than fourteen percent of its bingo gross receipts to pay the expenses of conducting bingo. The actual cost of (a) license and local permit fees, (b) any taxes authorized by the Nebraska Bingo Act, (c) bingo and promotional prizes, (d) the purchase, rental, or lease of bingo equipment, and (e) the rental or lease of a premises for the conduct of bingo and the purchase, rental, or lease of personal property as allowed by the department in rule and regulation which is necessary for the conduct of bingo shall not be included in determining compliance with the expense limitation contained in this section.

(3) A licensed organization which is also licensed to conduct a lottery by the sale of pickle cards pursuant to the Nebraska Pickle Card Lottery Act may allocate a portion of the expenses associated with the conduct of its bingo occasions to its lottery by the sale of pickle cards conducted at such bingo occasions. Such allocation shall be based upon the percentage that pickle card gross proceeds derived from the sale of pickle cards at the bingo occasions represents to the total of bingo gross receipts and pickle card gross proceeds derived from such bingo occasions for the previous annual reporting period. An organization licensed to conduct bingo that has not been previously licensed shall determine such allocation based upon the percentage that pickle card gross proceeds derived from the sale of pickle cards at the bingo occasions represents to the total of bingo gross receipts and pickle card gross proceeds derived from such bingo occasions for the initial three consecutive calendar months of operation.

(4) The total amount of expenses that may be allocated to the organization's lottery by the sale of pickle cards shall be subject to the limitations on bingo expenses as provided for in the Nebraska Bingo Act with respect to the fourteen-percent expense limitation and the fair-market-value limitation on the purchase, rental, or lease of bingo equipment and the rental or lease of personal property or of a premises for the conduct of bingo. No portion of the ~~eight~~ twelve percent of the definite profit of a pickle card unit as allowed by section 9-347 to pay the allowable expenses of operating a lottery by the sale of pickle cards shall be used to pay any expenses associated with the sale of pickle cards at a bingo occasion.

(5) All persons paid for working at a bingo occasion, including pickle card sellers but excluding concession workers, shall be paid only by a check written from the licensed organization's bingo checking account and shall not receive any other compensation or payment for working at a bingo occasion from any other source. Such wages shall be at an hourly or occasion rate and shall be included in the amount allowed by the expense limitation provided in subsection (2) of this section. No person shall receive any compensation or payment from a licensed organization based upon a percentage of the organization's bingo gross receipts or profit.

(6) No expenses associated with the conduct of bingo may be paid directly from the licensed organization's pickle card checking account. A licensed organization may transfer funds from its pickle card checking account to its bingo checking account as permitted by subsection (3) of this section by a check drawn on the pickle card checking account or by electronic funds transfer as provided only by section 9-347.

Sec. 2. Section 9-347, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

9-347 (1) The gross proceeds of any lottery by the sale of pickle

cards shall be used solely for lawful purposes, awarding of prizes, payment of the unit cost, any commission paid to a pickle card operator, allowable expenses, and allocations for bingo expenses as provided by subsection (5) of this section.

(2) Not less than sixty-five percent or more than eighty percent of the gross proceeds of any lottery by the sale of pickle cards shall be used for the awarding of prizes.

(3) Not more than ~~eight~~ twelve percent of the definite profit of a pickle card unit shall be used by the licensed organization to pay the allowable expenses of operating a lottery by the sale of pickle cards, except that license fees paid to the department to license the organization, each utilization-of-funds member, and any sales agent and pickle card dispensing device registration fees shall not be included in determining the ~~eight-percent~~ twelve-percent limitation on expenses and no portion of such ~~eight~~ twelve percent shall be used to pay any expenses associated with the sale of pickle cards at a bingo occasion conducted pursuant to the Nebraska Bingo Act, and of such ~~eight~~ twelve percent not more than ~~four~~ six percent of the definite profit may be used by the licensed organization for the payment of any commission, salary, or fee to a sales agent in connection with the marketing, sale, and delivery of a pickle card unit. When determining the ~~eight~~ twelve percent of definite profit that is permitted to pay the allowable expenses of operating a lottery by the sale of pickle cards, the definite profit from the sale of pickle cards at the organization's bingo occasions shall not be included.

(4) Not more than thirty percent of the definite profit of a pickle card unit shall be used by a licensed organization to pay a pickle card operator a commission, fee, or salary for selling individual pickle cards as opportunities for participation in a lottery by the sale of pickle cards on behalf of the licensed organization.

(5) An organization licensed to conduct bingo pursuant to the Nebraska Bingo Act may allocate a portion of the expenses associated with the conduct of its bingo occasions to its lottery by the sale of pickle cards conducted at such bingo occasions. Such allocation shall be based upon the percentage that pickle card gross proceeds derived from the sale of pickle cards at the bingo occasions represents to the total of bingo gross receipts and pickle card gross proceeds derived from such bingo occasions for the previous annual reporting period. An organization licensed to conduct bingo that has not been previously licensed shall determine such allocation based upon the percentage that pickle card gross proceeds derived from the sale of pickle cards at the bingo occasions represents to the total of bingo gross receipts and pickle card gross proceeds derived from such bingo occasions for the initial three consecutive calendar months of operation. The total amount of expenses that may be allocated to the organization's lottery by the sale of pickle cards shall be subject to the limitations on bingo expenses as provided for in the Nebraska Bingo Act with respect to the fourteen-percent expense limitation and the fair-market-value limitation on the purchase, rental, or lease of bingo equipment and the rental or lease of personal property or of a premises for the conduct of bingo. No expenses associated with the conduct of bingo may be paid directly from the pickle card checking account. A licensed organization which needs to allocate a portion of the expenses associated with the conduct of its bingo occasions to its lottery by the sale of pickle cards conducted at such bingo occasions to pay bingo expenses as provided by this section shall transfer funds from the pickle card checking account to the bingo checking account by a check drawn on the pickle card checking account or by electronic funds transfer.

Sec. 3. Section 9-347.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

9-347.01 (1) For each type of pickle card unit marketed in this state, the department shall determine the following: (a) When a licensed organization sells pickle cards through pickle card operators, the portion of the definite profit from that pickle card unit which shall go to the licensed organization, such amount to be not less than seventy percent of the definite profit from such pickle card unit; (b) the maximum amount of the definite profit from the sale of a pickle card unit that a licensed organization may pay a pickle card operator as a commission, fee, or salary to sell its pickle cards, such amount not to exceed thirty percent of the definite profit from such pickle card unit; (c) the portion of the definite profit from the sale of a pickle card unit which may be expended by a licensed organization for allowable expenses, such amount not to exceed ~~eight~~ twelve percent of the definite profit from such pickle card unit; and (d) the portion of the definite profit from the sale of a pickle card unit which may be utilized by a licensed organization for payment of the organization's sales agent, such

amount to be a portion of the allowable expenses and not to exceed ~~four~~ six percent of the definite profit from such pickle card unit.

(2) The licensed organization's net profit from the sale of a pickle card unit shall be used exclusively for a lawful purpose. A licensed organization shall not donate or promise to donate its net profit or any portion of the net profit to a recipient outside of its organization as an inducement for or in exchange for (a) a payment, gift, or other thing of value from the recipient to any person, organization, or corporation, including, but not limited to, the licensed organization or any of its members, employees, or agents, or (b) a pickle card operator's agreement to sell pickle cards on behalf of the licensed organization.

Sec. 4. Section 9-812, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

9-812 (1) All money received from the operation of lottery games conducted pursuant to the State Lottery Act in Nebraska shall be credited to the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund, which fund is hereby created. All payments of the costs of establishing and maintaining the lottery games shall be made from the State Lottery Operation Cash Fund. In accordance with legislative appropriations, money for payments for expenses of the division shall be transferred from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the State Lottery Operation Cash Fund, which fund is hereby created. All money necessary for the payment of lottery prizes shall be transferred from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the State Lottery Prize Trust Fund, which fund is hereby created. The amount used for the payment of lottery prizes shall not be less than forty percent of the dollar amount of the lottery tickets which have been sold.

~~(2)(a) (2) Beginning October 1, 2003, and until July 1, 2009, a portion of the dollar amount of the lottery tickets which have been sold on an annualized basis shall be transferred from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the Education Innovation Fund, the Nebraska Scholarship Fund, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, the Nebraska State Fair Board, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund. The dollar amount transferred pursuant to this subsection shall equal the greater of (a) the dollar amount transferred to the funds in fiscal year 2002-03 or (b) any amount which constitutes at least twenty-two percent and no more than twenty-five percent of the dollar amount of the lottery tickets which have been sold on an annualized basis. To the extent that funds are available, the Tax Commissioner and director may authorize a transfer exceeding twenty-five percent of the dollar amount of the lottery tickets sold on an annualized basis. 7 except that the dollar amount transferred shall not be less than the dollar amount transferred to the funds in fiscal year 2002-03.~~

~~(b) On and after July 1, 2009, at least twenty-five percent of the dollar amount of the lottery tickets which have been sold on an annualized basis shall be transferred from the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund to the Education Innovation Fund, the Nebraska Scholarship Fund, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, the Nebraska State Fair Board, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund.~~

(3) Of the money available to be transferred to the Education Innovation Fund, the Nebraska Scholarship Fund, the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, the Nebraska State Fair Board, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund:

(a) The first five hundred thousand dollars shall be transferred to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund to be used as provided in section 71-817;

(b) Nineteen and three-fourths percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Education Innovation Fund;

(c) Twenty-four and three-fourths percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Nebraska Scholarship Fund;

(d) Forty-four and one-half percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to be used as provided in the Nebraska Environmental Trust Act;

(e) Ten percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Nebraska State Fair Board if the most populous city within the county in which the fair is located provides matching funds equivalent to ten percent of the funds available for transfer.

Such matching funds may be obtained from the city and any other private or public entity, except that no portion of such matching funds shall be provided by the state. If the Nebraska State Fair ceases operations, ten percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund; and

(f) One percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund shall be transferred to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund to be used as provided in section 71-817.

(4)(a) The Education Innovation Fund is created. At least seventy-five percent of the lottery proceeds allocated to the Education Innovation Fund shall be available for disbursement.

(b) For fiscal year 2005-06, the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated as follows: The first one million dollars shall be transferred to the School District Reorganization Fund, and the remaining amount shall be allocated to the General Fund after operating expenses for the Excellence in Education Council are deducted.

(c) For fiscal year 2006-07, the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated as follows: The first two hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be transferred to the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program Cash Fund to fund the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program Act, the next one million dollars shall be transferred to the School District Reorganization Fund, and the amount remaining in the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated, after administrative expenses, for distance education equipment and incentives pursuant to sections 79-1336 and 79-1337.

(d) For fiscal year 2007-08, the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated as follows: The first five hundred thousand dollars shall be transferred to the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program Cash Fund to fund the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program Act, and the amount remaining in the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated, after administrative expenses, for distance education equipment and incentives pursuant to sections 79-1336 and 79-1337.

(e) For fiscal year 2008-09, the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated as follows: The first seven hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be transferred to the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program Cash Fund to fund the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program Act, and the amount remaining in the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated, after administrative expenses, for distance education equipment and incentives pursuant to sections 79-1336 and 79-1337.

(f) For fiscal years 2009-10 through 2015-16, the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated as follows: The first one million dollars shall be transferred to the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program Cash Fund to fund the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program Act, and the amount remaining in the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated, after administrative expenses, for distance education equipment and incentives pursuant to sections 79-1336 and 79-1337.

(g) For fiscal year 2016-17 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Education Innovation Fund shall be allocated, after administrative expenses, for education purposes as provided by the Legislature.

(5) Any money in the State Lottery Operation Trust Fund, the State Lottery Operation Cash Fund, the State Lottery Prize Trust Fund, or the Education Innovation Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

(6) Unclaimed prize money on a winning lottery ticket shall be retained for a period of time prescribed by rules and regulations. If no claim is made within such period, the prize money shall be used at the discretion of the Tax Commissioner for any of the purposes prescribed in this section.

Sec. 5. Sections 1, 2, 3, and 7 of this act become operative three calendar months after the adjournment of this legislative session. Sections 4 and 6 of this act become operative on June 30, 2009. The other sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

Sec. 6. Original section 9-812, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.

Sec. 7. Original sections 9-255.04, 9-347, and 9-347.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 8. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.