

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1047**

Introduced by Holdcroft, 36.

Read first time January 14, 2026

Committee: General Affairs

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Bingo Act; to amend sections  
2 9-204.01, 9-230, 9-230.01, 9-241.08, and 9-255, Reissue Revised  
3 Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 9-204 and 9-204.04, Revised  
4 Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024; to redefine terms; to  
5 authorize certain types of music bingo under the act; to change  
6 provisions relating to restrictions on the dollar amount of prizes  
7 that can be awarded under the act; to change provisions relating to  
8 special event bingo; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the  
9 original sections.  
10 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           **Section 1.** Section 9-204, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
2 2024, is amended to read:

3           9-204 (1) Bingo means ~~shall mean~~ that form of gambling in which:

4           (a) The winning numbers or song titles, musical artists, or music  
5 genres are determined by random selection from a pool of seventy-five or  
6 ninety numbered designators or song titles, musical artists, or music  
7 genres; and

8           (b) A player marks by physically daubing or covering or,  
9 automatically or manually with the aid of a bingo card monitoring device,  
10 enters or otherwise conceals those randomly selected numbers or song  
11 titles, musical artists, or music genres which match on a bingo card that  
12 the player has purchased or leased only at the time and place of the  
13 bingo occasion.

14           (2) Bingo does not ~~shall not mean~~ or include:

15           (a) Any scheme which uses any mechanical gaming device, computer  
16 gaming device, electronic gaming device, or video gaming device which has  
17 the capability of awarding something of value, free games redeemable for  
18 something of value, or tickets or stubs redeemable for something of  
19 value;

20           (b) Any activity which is authorized or regulated under the Nebraska  
21 County and City Lottery Act, the Nebraska Lottery and Raffle Act, the  
22 Nebraska Pickle Card Lottery Act, the Nebraska Small Lottery and Raffle  
23 Act, the State Lottery Act, section 9-701, or Chapter 2, article 12; or

24           (c) Any activity which is prohibited under Chapter 28, article 11.

25           **Sec. 2.** Section 9-204.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
26 amended to read:

27           9-204.01 Bingo card means ~~shall mean~~:

28           (1) In the case of seventy-five-square ~~seventy-five-number~~ bingo, a  
29 disposable paper bingo card, a facsimile of a bingo card electronically  
30 displayed on a bingo card monitoring device, or a reusable hard bingo  
31 card or shutter card, which has letters and numbers or song titles,

1 musical artists, or music genres preprinted or predetermined by a  
2 manufacturer and which:

3 (a) Contains five columns with five squares in each column;

4 (b) Identifies the five columns from left to right by the letters B-  
5 I-N-G-O; and

6 (c) Contains in each square, except for the center square identified  
7 as "free", one number or song title, musical artist, or music genre from  
8 a pool of seventy-five numbers or song titles, musical artists, or music  
9 genres; or

10 (2) In the case of ninety-number bingo, a disposable paper bingo  
11 card or facsimile of a bingo card electronically displayed on a bingo  
12 card monitoring device which has numbers preprinted or predetermined by a  
13 manufacturer and which:

14 (a) Contains six faces with each face containing twenty-seven  
15 squares arranged in nine columns of three squares each; and

16 (b) Contains in fifteen squares of each face a number from one to  
17 ninety which is not repeated on the same card.

18 The department may approve variations to the card formats described  
19 in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section if such variations result in  
20 a bingo game which is conducted in a manner that is consistent with  
21 section 9-204.

22 **Sec. 3.** Section 9-204.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
23 2024, is amended to read:

24 9-204.04 Bingo card monitoring device means ~~shall mean~~ a  
25 technological aid which allows a bingo player to automatically or  
26 manually enter bingo numbers or song titles, musical artists, or music  
27 genres as they are announced at a bingo occasion and which enters or  
28 otherwise conceals those numbers or song titles, musical artists, or  
29 music genres on bingo cards which are electronically stored in and  
30 displayed on the device. A bingo card monitoring device shall not mean or  
31 include any device (1) into which currency, coins, or tokens may be

1 inserted or from which currency, coins, tokens, or any receipt for  
2 monetary value can be dispensed or (2) which, once provided to a bingo  
3 player, is capable of communicating with any other bingo card monitoring  
4 device or any other form of electronic device or computer, except that  
5 such device may communicate with its host system.

6 **Sec. 4.** Section 9-230, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
7 amended to read:

8 9-230 No person, except a licensed organization or qualifying  
9 nonprofit organization operating pursuant to the Nebraska Bingo Act,  
10 shall conduct any game of bingo for which a charge is made, and no person  
11 except a licensed organization shall award any prize with a value in  
12 excess of fifty ~~twenty-five~~ dollars for any bingo game. Any such game  
13 conducted in violation of this section is hereby declared to be a public  
14 nuisance. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be  
15 guilty of a Class III misdemeanor for the first offense and a Class I  
16 misdemeanor for the second or subsequent offense.

17 **Sec. 5.** Section 9-230.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
18 amended to read:

19 9-230.01 (1) A qualifying nonprofit organization may apply to the  
20 department for a permit to conduct a special event bingo in conjunction  
21 with a special event at which bingo is not the primary function. Such  
22 special event bingo shall be exempt from (a) the licensing requirements  
23 found in the Nebraska Bingo Act for Class I and Class II licenses, (b)  
24 the record-keeping and reporting requirements found in the act for  
25 licensed organizations, and (c) any tax on the gross receipts derived  
26 from the conduct of bingo as provided in the act for licensed  
27 organizations.

28 (2) A qualifying nonprofit organization may apply for and obtain two  
29 special event bingo permits per calendar year, not to exceed a total of  
30 fourteen days in duration. An application for a permit shall be made, on  
31 a form prescribed by the department, at least ten days prior to the

1 desired starting date of the special event bingo. The form shall be  
2 accompanied by a permit fee of fifteen dollars and shall contain:

3 (a) The name and address of the nonprofit organization applying for  
4 the permit;

5 (b) Sufficient facts relating to the nature of the organization to  
6 enable the department to determine if the organization is eligible for  
7 the permit;

8 (c) The date, time, place, duration, and nature of the special event  
9 at which the special event bingo will be conducted;

10 (d) The name, address, and telephone number of the individual who  
11 will be in charge of the special event bingo; and

12 (e) Any other information which the department deems necessary.

13 (3) An organization must have a permit issued by the department  
14 before it can conduct a special event bingo. The permit shall be clearly  
15 posted and visible to all participants at the special event bingo.

16 (4) Special event bingo shall be subject to the following:

17 (a) Special event bingo shall be conducted only within the county in  
18 which the qualifying nonprofit organization has its principal office;

19 (b) Bingo equipment, other than disposable paper bingo cards,  
20 necessary to conduct bingo may be obtained from any source. Disposable  
21 paper bingo cards may be obtained only from (i) a licensed distributor or  
22 (ii) a licensed organization as provided in subdivision (4)(e) of section  
23 9-241.05;

24 (c) No bingo card used at a special event bingo shall be sold,  
25 rented, or leased for more than one dollar ~~twenty-five cents~~ per card;

26 (d) No single prize shall be offered or awarded at a special event  
27 bingo which exceeds fifty ~~twenty-five~~ dollars in value;

28 (e) A special event bingo shall be conducted by individuals who are  
29 at least eighteen years of age. The qualifying nonprofit organization may  
30 permit individuals under eighteen years of age to play special event  
31 bingo when no alcoholic beverages are served, sold, or consumed in the

1 immediate vicinity of where the special event bingo is conducted;

2 (f) No wage, commission, or salary shall be paid to any person in  
3 connection with the conduct of a special event bingo; and

4 (g) The gross receipts from the conduct of a special event bingo  
5 shall be used solely for the awarding of prizes and reasonable and  
6 necessary expenses associated with the conduct of the special event bingo  
7 such as the permit fee and the purchase or rental of bingo cards or other  
8 equipment needed to conduct bingo. The remaining receipts shall be used  
9 solely for a lawful purpose.

10 **Sec. 6.** Section 9-241.08, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
11 amended to read:

12 9-241.08 (1) No person under eighteen years of age shall play or  
13 participate in any bingo game, except that any person may play bingo at a  
14 limited period bingo or special event bingo if (a) no alcoholic beverages  
15 are served and (b) no prize or prizes to be awarded exceed fifty ~~twenty-~~  
16 ~~five~~ dollars in value per game.

17 (2) All persons involved in the conduct of bingo must be at least  
18 eighteen years of age.

19 (3) No person who is conducting or assisting in the conduct of a  
20 bingo occasion shall be permitted to participate as a player at that  
21 bingo occasion.

22 (4) No licensed commercial lessor, distributor, or manufacturer,  
23 person having a substantial interest in a licensed commercial lessor,  
24 distributor, or manufacturer, or employee or agent of a licensed  
25 commercial lessor, distributor, or manufacturer shall operate, manage,  
26 conduct, advise, or assist in the operating, managing, conducting,  
27 promoting, or administering of any bingo game or occasion. For purposes  
28 of this subsection, the term assist shall include, but not be limited to,  
29 the payment of any expense of a licensed organization, whether such  
30 payment is by loan or otherwise.

31 (5) No person, licensee, or permittee or employee or agent thereof

1 shall knowingly permit an individual under eighteen years of age to play  
2 or participate in any way in a bingo game conducted pursuant to the  
3 Nebraska Bingo Act, excluding those individuals allowed by law to play at  
4 a limited period bingo or special event bingo when (a) no alcoholic  
5 beverages are served and (b) no prize or prizes that will be awarded  
6 exceed fifty ~~twenty-five~~ dollars in value per game.

7 **Sec. 7.** Section 9-255, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
8 amended to read:

9 9-255 (1)(a) Only the following means of random selection of the  
10 numbered designators shall be used in the conduct of any bingo game:

11 (i) ~~(1)~~ An electrically operated blower machine containing balls  
12 which the operator may take from the air one at a time while the blower  
13 is in operation, or which provides a trap or other mechanical means for  
14 automatically catching not more than one ball at a time while the blower  
15 is in operation; or

16 (ii) ~~(2)~~ A mechanically or manually operated cage which provides a  
17 trap or other mechanical means for automatically catching not more than  
18 one ball at a time while the cage is in operation.

19 (b) For any means of selection permitted by subdivisions (1) and (2)  
20 of this section, the balls to be drawn shall be essentially the same in  
21 size, shape, weight, balance, and all other characteristics so that at  
22 all times during the conduct of bingo each ball possesses the capacity  
23 for equal agitation with any other ball within the receptacle. All balls  
24 within the total set shall be subject to random selection at the  
25 beginning of each bingo game.

26 (2) For purposes of bingo utilizing song titles, musical artists, or  
27 music genres, only a mechanical, manually operated, or electronic device  
28 that ensures song titles, musical artists, or music genres are randomly  
29 selected shall be used in the conduct of such a bingo game.

30 **Sec. 8.** Original sections 9-204.01, 9-230, 9-230.01, 9-241.08, and  
31 9-255, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 9-204 and

1 9-204.04, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, are repealed.