

STATE OF NEW YORK

5031

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 18, 2025

Introduced by Sen. GRIFFO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

proposing an amendment to subdivision 2 of section 9 of article 1 of the constitution, in relation to the operation of games of chance

1 Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That subdivision 2 of
2 section 9 of article 1 of the constitution be amended to read as
3 follows:

4 2. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, any city,
5 town or village within the state may by an approving vote of the majori-
6 ty of the qualified electors in such municipality voting on a proposi-
7 tion therefor submitted at a general or special election authorize,
8 subject to state legislative supervision and control, the conduct of one
9 or both of the following categories of games of chance commonly known
10 as: (a) bingo or lotto, in which prizes are awarded on the basis of
11 designated numbers or symbols on a card conforming to numbers or symbols
12 selected at random; (b) games in which prizes are awarded on the basis
13 of a winning number or numbers, color or colors, or symbol or symbols
14 determined by chance from among those previously selected or played,
15 whether determined as the result of the spinning of a wheel, a drawing
16 or otherwise by chance. If authorized, such games shall be subject to
17 the following restrictions, among others which may be prescribed by the
18 legislature: (1) only bona fide religious, charitable or non-profit
19 organizations of veterans, volunteer firefighter and similar non-profit
20 organizations shall be permitted to conduct such games; (2) the entire
21 net proceeds of any game shall be exclusively devoted to the lawful
22 purposes of such organizations; (3) no person except a bona fide member
23 or employee of any such organization shall participate in the management
24 or operation of such game; and (4) no person shall receive any remunera-
25 tion for participating in the management or operation of any such game,
26 except when an employee of such organization, who is compensated for
27 work unrelated to the management or operation of games of chance,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD89040-01-5

1 participates in the management or operation of any such game. Unless
2 otherwise provided by law, no single prize shall exceed two hundred
3 fifty dollars, nor shall any series of prizes on one occasion aggregate
4 more than one thousand dollars. The legislature shall pass appropriate
5 laws to effectuate the purposes of this subdivision, ensure that such
6 games are rigidly regulated to prevent commercialized gambling, prevent
7 participation by criminal and other undesirable elements and the diver-
8 sion of funds from the purposes authorized hereunder and establish a
9 method by which a municipality which has authorized such games may
10 rescind or revoke such authorization. Unless permitted by the legisla-
11 ture, no municipality shall have the power to pass local laws or ordi-
12 nances relating to such games. Nothing in this section shall prevent the
13 legislature from passing laws more restrictive than any of the
14 provisions of this section.

15 § 2. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the foregoing amendment
16 be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the
17 next succeeding general election of members of the assembly, and, in
18 conformity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be
19 published for three months previous to the time of such election.