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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JOHN CHIRKUN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

September 1, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

House Bill 5902 is an uncomplicated fix to what is a big problem for qualified charities. Prior to 2019 PA 159, qualified charities could offer multiple bingo games per day. See MCL 432.105 which allows up to 14 bingo licenses to be issued per week at a hall. However, 2019 PA 159 changed the definition of "occasion" as follows:

CURRENT(l) "Occasion" means a single day for which a license to conduct games is issued under this act

Under this definition of "occasion" qualified charities are restricted to one bingo license per location per day, as supported by divisional level advice from the Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division of the Attorney General. See, Mich Admin Code, R 432.21305 and 432.22006(2). Moreover, under the current charitable gaming rules, the current definition of "occasion" also prevents a qualified charity from conducting a raffle drawing on the same day and location that a bingo game is held, which is a common occurrence. See Mich Admin Code, R 432.21513(5). For instance, a qualified charity might conduct a bingo from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and then hold a raffle drawing between 4:30 and 6:00 PM.

To resolve these problems, and allow qualified charities to continue offering charitable gaming as they did prior to 2019 PA 159, this bill would change the definition of "occasion" back to the previous definition:

*NEW (l) "Occasion" means hours of thy day for which a license is issued.
(This language was the definition of "occasion" before it was amended by 2019 PA 159.
Under current law, the term "occasion" is used in 32 places in this act.)*

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would increase charitable gaming revenues by an unknown amount due to the estimated increase in authorized games. The Bureau of State Lottery is in support of House Bill 5902. I look forward to your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

John Chirkun
State Representative
22nd District

