



Hello everyone!

I hope this message finds you well.

The purpose of this communication is to share with you some of the legislative changes from the 89th session of the Texas Legislature and some of our implementation activities. The bills that most impact charitable bingo are SB 3070 and HB 2820.

### **SB 3070**

The biggest news about SB 3070 is, of course, the transfer of the charitable bingo and lottery programs to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). The effective date of the transfer and the end of the Texas Lottery Commission was September 1.

SB 3070 made some changes to the Bingo Enabling Act, including the following:

- limiting the amount of time a grandfathered lessor license may be on administrative hold to 10 years;
- allowing licensed distributors, under certain circumstances, to receive bingo equipment or supplies from a licensed organization and related record keeping requirements.
- increasing the amount of operating capital a licensed organization or unit may retain in the bingo account to the actual average quarterly bingo expenses, based on the preceding license period and excluding prizes paid, not to exceed \$100,000 for a single organization or for each member of the unit;
- prohibiting the Bingo Advisory Committee (BAC) from participating in committee member selection; and
- requiring the commission to consult with the BAC to collaboratively define and implement specific fiscal accountability criteria for inspections of premises.

### **HB 2820**

HB 2820 made only one change to the Bingo Enabling Act, which was also included in SB 3070 above. Under HB 2820, the amount a licensed organization or unit may retain in its bingo account is the organization's or unit's average expenses per quarter for the preceding license period and excluding prizes paid, not to exceed \$100,000 for a single organization or for each unit member.

### **Rules**

As part of the transition to TDLR, the now defunct Lottery Commission's rules will move to new TDLR chapters, effective October 1, 2025. The charitable bingo rules will be moved from 16 Texas Administrative Code Part 9 (the Texas Lottery Commission) Chapter 402 to 16 Texas Administrative Code Part 4 (TDLR) Chapter 141. The October 1 rule chapter change will not change any of the rule language. CBOD staff is working with our IT division to update the rule links on the [txbingo.org](http://txbingo.org) as soon as possible, after October 1.

We will need to amend rules to fully implement the new legislation described above. SB 3070 requires that necessary rulemaking be completed as soon as practicable. We are in the process of identifying necessary changes.

### **Forms and other changes**

You may have already noticed that the new charitable bingo logo now includes TDLR's name. We've updated the logo on our website and incorporated TDLR's agency seal into several of our online forms. There are certainly a lot of details that go into transitioning to a new agency.

**Things that ARE NOT changing**

At this time, there is no plan to move our offices, so CBOD's headquarters will remain in the George H. W. Bush Building. There are also no plans to change our phone numbers or email addresses.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any questions or concerns about how any of these bills impact your license, please contact the division by calling 1-800-BINGO-77 or by sending an email to [Bingo.Services@lottery.state.tx.us](mailto:Bingo.Services@lottery.state.tx.us).

LaDonna Castañuela, Director  
Charitable Bingo Operations Division  
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

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Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Charitable Bingo Operations Division.  
[1801 Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78701](#) - [800-246-4677](#)