



Texas Lottery Commission



Commissioners:

J. Winston Krause, Chairman

Mark A. Franz • Robert Rivera • Erik C. Saenz

Michael P. Farrell
Director

September 27, 2019

Dear City or County Representative,

This is the final notice I am sending regarding the requirements and deadlines imposed by the 86th Legislature's House Bill (HB) 914.

This letter is being sent to the provided point of contact and to offices in the county and municipalities that currently receive a share of the prize fees collected on charitable bingo activity that occurs in its jurisdiction.

The most immediate matter for your attention is that your local government will only continue to receive a share of the bingo prize fees collected after Jan. 1, 2020 if it meets the requirements set forth in HB 914 that require your governing body to:

- (1) approve the continued receipt of the share of bingo prize fee funds by a majority vote; and**
- (2) notify the TLC of that decision no later than Nov. 1, 2019; and**
- (3) notify each licensed authorized organization conducting bingo within the county's or municipality's jurisdiction, as applicable, of the continued imposition of the fee.**

Additionally, under the language of the bill, the **only** way a city/municipality can be certain their share of prize fees will go to charities instead of the county in which the city is located is for the city to take two votes: first, a vote **before Nov. 1** to continue receiving the prize fees, then, **after Nov. 1, a second vote to discontinue receiving the prize fees.**

Similarly, under the language of the bill, the **only** way a county can be certain their share of prize fees will go to charities instead of the city/municipality in said county where bingo is conducted is for the county to take two votes: first, a vote **before Nov. 1** to continue receiving the prize fees, then, **after Nov. 1, a second vote to discontinue receiving the prize fees.**

The bill author for HB 914, Representative Senfronia Thompson, provided the Commission with a letter of legislative intent regarding provisions related to the allocation of bingo prize fees to local governments and licensed bingo charities. Enclosed is a copy of this letter for your review. The agency encourages you to seek independent legal advice if you have any questions about the payment of prize fees.

If you have not done so already, please let us know as soon as possible if there is a specific contact person or office to direct our future correspondence, and that will serve as your county and/or municipality's official address of record for notification purposes. Without a dedicated address for this purpose, it is possible that future communications may be misdirected.

Finally, as a reminder, the Texas Lottery Commission will no longer be collecting all prize fees and redistributing them to counties and cities at the end of this fiscal year. Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, the charitable organizations will be sending as appropriate, the prize fees directly to the government entity.

If you have any questions, email us at bingo.services@lottery.state.tx.us or call 800-246-4677 and follow the prompts.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael P. Farrell
Director
Charitable Bingo Operations Division

Enclosure