

The Texas Lottery Commission (Commission) proposes amendments to 16 TAC §§ 402.200 (General Restrictions on the Conduct of Bingo), 402.203 (Unit Accounting), 402.400 (General Licensing Provisions), 402.401 (Temporary License), 402.404 (License Classes and Fees), 402.405 (Temporary Authorization), 402.413 (Military Service Members, Military Veterans, and Military Spouses), 402.420 (Qualifications and Requirements for Conductor's License), 402.451 (Operating Capital), 402.452 (Net Proceeds), 402.503 (Bingo Gift Certificates), 402.600 (Bingo Reports and Payments), 402.706 (Schedule of Sanctions), and 402.707 (Expedited Administrative Penalty Guideline). The purpose of the proposed amendments is to implement statutory changes required by House Bill 639 (HB 639), Senate Bill 422 (SB 422), and Senate Bill 643 (SB 643) from the Regular Session of the 88th Texas Legislature.

The proposed amendments implementing HB 639 increase the maximum yearly number of temporary bingo licenses that a non-regular authorized organization may receive from 6 to 12.

The proposed amendments implementing SB 422 allow military members to engage in bingo without a license or worker registration for up to three years while they are stationed at a military base in Texas, provided they are similarly licensed or registered and in good standing in another state.

The proposed amendments implementing SB 643 amend the definition of "regular license" to mean a 2-year license to conduct bingo that is not a temporary license; require the Commission to issue to regular licensees 48 temporary licenses for each 12-month period ending on the anniversary of their licensing date; increase the maximum prize value that can be awarded during an occasion from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and eliminate the \$750 prize limit for a single game; allow units three days to deposit bingo funds into their bank account; provide that all of the members of a unit may not be penalized for a violation that is wholly attributable to a specific member or members of the unit; change the required net proceeds period from 12 months to 24 months; and specify that prize fees retained by the organization or held in escrow for remittance to the Commission, a county, or a municipality are not included in the calculation of operating capital.

LaDonna Castañuela, Director of the Charitable Bingo Operations Division, has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed amended rules will be in effect, the anticipated public benefit will be the implementation of recent legislation.