

2021 -- H 5565

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - GAMBLING AND LOTTERIES

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Williams, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: February 12, 2021

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 11-19 of the General Laws entitled "Gambling and Lotteries" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:  
3           **11-19-30.4. Nonprofit organizations gambling event fundraisers.**  
4           (a) Nothing in this chapter or in any other existing law of this state shall authorize the  
5 prosecution, arrest or conviction of any person for, or shall be construed to limit or prevent any  
6 religious, charitable, fraternal, civic, educational or veterans' organization from promoting,  
7 carrying on or conducting by its own members, serving without any compensation, any game of  
8 chance authorized by the Rhode Island state police excepting the game commonly called "bingo"  
9 or "beano," in connection with which prizes or prize monies are offered or awarded; provided that  
10 the entire proceeds of the charges for admission to and participation in such game after deducting  
11 expenses for rent, heat, light, prizes and equipment and other reasonable expenses, are applied and  
12 expended exclusively for charitable purposes; and provided, further, a license is authorized to be  
13 granted to any such organization for a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for a specific date or dates by any  
14 city or town in which such games are to take place or be conducted upon application which shall  
15 set forth the name of the organization, the names and residence addresses of the principal officers  
16 and persons conducting such game, and upon such other additional terms and conditions as the said  
17 city or town may prescribe in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section;  
18 provided, further, that no person under the age of eighteen (18) years shall be permitted to  
19 participate in such game. Upon the issuance of said license by the city or town, a copy of said

1 license shall be forwarded to the state police. Application for such license shall be made at least  
2 thirty (30) days before commencement of said gambling event fundraiser. Within sixty (60) days  
3 of the completion of said gambling event fundraiser, the organization shall file a complete report  
4 with the city or town and the Rhode Island state police. The report shall contain the money received,  
5 a final statement of expenses, and the uses to which the net profit will be applied.

6 (b) As a condition to issuance of any license by a city or town pursuant to the provisions  
7 of subsection (a) of this section, the city or town may limit, restrict or condition the locations, hours  
8 of operation, consumption of alcohol, use of an ATM onsite, and/or the number of gambling event  
9 fundraisers conducted annually by any organization. A city or town may require the presence of a  
10 police detail at any event approved pursuant to the provisions of this section.

11 (c) Every organization conducting a gambling event fundraiser in accordance with the  
12 provisions of this section shall comply with federal rules and regulations and procedures related to  
13 W-2G withholdings.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T  
RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - GAMBLING AND LOTTERIES

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1           This act would authorize nonprofit organizations to conduct gambling event fundraisers  
2 approved by the city or town in which the event is to be conducted and as authorized by the state  
3 police.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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