



House Bill No. 7070

Public Act No. 17-231

**AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND BINGO GAMES,
BAZAARS AND RAFFLES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 7-169 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

(a) [The term "bingo" is defined as the name of] For the purposes of this section and section 7-169a, as amended by this act, "bingo game" means a game in which each player receives a card containing several rows of numbers and, as numbers are drawn or otherwise obtained by chance and publicly announced, the player first having a specified number of announced numbers appearing on [his] the player's card in a continuous straight line or covering a previously designated arrangement of numbers on such card is declared the winner; [. The word] "person" or "applicant" [, as used in this section,] means the officer or representative of the sponsoring organization or the organization itself; [. The term] "session" means a series of games played in one day; [. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, who shall be responsible for the administration and regulation of bingo in the state] and "municipal official" means the chief of police of the municipality, or if there is no police department, the chief executive officer of the municipality, where the bingo game is

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to be conducted or is conducted.

(b) Upon a written petition of five per cent or more of the electors of any municipality requesting the selectmen, common council or other governing body of such municipality to vote upon the question of permitting the playing of bingo within such municipality, such governing body shall vote upon such question and, if the vote is in the affirmative, it shall be permitted, subject to the restrictions herein set forth, and if the vote is in the negative, bingo games shall not be permitted to be played in such municipality. When the selectmen, common council or other governing body of any municipality have voted favorably upon the question of permitting the playing of bingo games within such municipality, the playing of [such game] bingo games shall be permitted in such municipality indefinitely thereafter, without further petition or action by such governing body, unless such governing body has forbidden the playing of [said game] bingo games upon a similar written petition of five per cent or more of the electors of such municipality, whereupon bingo games shall not be permitted to be played after such negative vote.

[(c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, such regulations as are necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this section and section 7-169a in order to prevent fraud and protect the public, which regulations shall have the effect of law.]

[(d)] (c) No bingo game or series of bingo games shall be promoted, operated or played unless the same is sponsored and conducted exclusively by a charitable, civic, educational, fraternal, veterans' or religious organization, volunteer fire department or grange. Any such organization or group shall have been organized for not less than two years prior to its application for a bingo permit under the terms of this section. The promotion and operation of [said] a bingo game or bingo games shall be confined solely to the qualified members of the

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sponsoring organization, except that the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official may permit any qualified member of a sponsoring organization who has registered with [said commissioner] the municipal official, on a form prepared by [him or her] the municipal official for such purpose, to assist in the operation of a bingo game sponsored by another organization. The [commissioner] municipal official may revoke such registration for cause.

[(e)] (d) Any eligible organization desiring to operate bingo games in any municipality in which the governing body has voted to permit the playing thereof shall apply to the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official, which application shall contain a statement of the name and address of the applicant, the location of the place at which the bingo games are to be played and the seating capacity of such place, the date or dates for which a permit is sought, the class of permit sought and any other information which the [commissioner] municipal official reasonably requires for the protection of the public, and, upon payment of the fee provided for in this section, the [commissioner] municipal official is authorized to issue such permit, provided such eligible organization has been registered as provided in section 7-169a, as amended by this act.

[(f)] (e) Permits shall be known as "Class A" which shall be annual one-day-per-week permits and shall permit the conduct of not more than forty and not less than fifteen bingo games on such day, [and] "Class B" which shall permit not more than forty and not less than fifteen bingo games per day for a maximum of ten successive days, and "Class C" which shall be annual one-day-per-month permits and shall permit the conduct of not more than forty and not less than fifteen bingo games on such day. "Class A" permits shall allow the playing of bingo games no more than one day [weekly] per week. Not more than two "Class B" permits shall be issued to any one organization within any twelve-month period. "Class C" permits shall

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allow the playing of bingo games no more than one day per month.

[(g) Permit fees shall be remitted to the state] (f) The municipal official may set fees as follows: "Class A", not to exceed seventy-five dollars; "Class B", [five] not to exceed ten dollars per day; and "Class C", not to exceed fifty dollars.

[(h)] (g) Each person who operates bingo games shall keep accurate records of receipts and disbursements, which shall be available for inspection by the [commissioner and the chief law enforcement official in the municipality in which such bingo games are operated. Any information acquired by the commissioner pursuant to this subsection shall be available to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection upon request] municipal official.

[(i)] (h) Prizes offered for the winning of bingo games may consist of cash, merchandise, tickets for any lottery conducted under chapter 226, the value of which shall be the purchase price printed on such tickets, or other personal property. No permittee may offer a prize which exceeds two hundred fifty dollars in value, except that (1) a permittee may offer a prize or prizes on any one day of not less than two hundred fifty-one dollars or more than seven hundred fifty dollars in value, provided the total value of such prizes on any one day does not exceed twenty-five hundred dollars, (2) a permittee may offer one or two winner-take-all bingo games or series of bingo games played on any day on which the permittee is allowed to conduct bingo games, provided ninety per cent of all receipts from the sale of bingo cards for such winner-take-all bingo game or series of bingo games shall be awarded as prizes for such bingo games or series of bingo games and provided each prize awarded does not exceed one thousand dollars in value, (3) the holder of a Class A permit may offer two additional prizes on a weekly basis not to exceed five hundred dollars each as a special grand prize and in the event such a special grand prize is not won, the money reserved for such prize shall be added to the money

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reserved for the next week's special grand prize, provided no such special grand prize may accumulate for more than sixteen weeks or exceed a total of five thousand dollars, and (4) a permittee may award door prizes the aggregate value of which shall not exceed five hundred dollars in value. When more than one player wins on the call of the same number, the designated prize shall be divided equally to the next nearest dollar. If a permittee elects, no winner may receive a prize which amounts to less than ten per cent of the announced prize and in such case the total of such multiple prizes may exceed the statutory limit of such bingo game.

[(j)] (i) Any organization [operating or conducting] that operates or conducts a bingo game pursuant to this section shall file a return with the [commissioner] municipal official, on a form prepared by [him or her] the municipal official, within ten days after such bingo game is held or within such further time as the [commissioner] municipal official may allow, and pay to the [state] municipality in which the bingo game was conducted a fee of five per cent of the gross receipts, less the prizes awarded, including prizes reserved for special grand prize games, derived from such bingo games at each bingo session. All such returns shall be public records. [The commissioner shall pay each municipality in which bingo games are conducted, one-quarter of one per cent of the total money wagered less prizes awarded on such games conducted. He or she shall make such payment at least once a year and not more than four times a year from the fee imposed pursuant to this subsection.]

[(k)] (j) (1) Whenever it appears to the [commissioner] municipal official after an investigation that any person is violating or is about to violate any provision of this section or section 7-169a, as amended by this act, [or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto, the commissioner] or has made any false statement in any application for a permit or in any report required by this section, the municipal official

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may, in his or her discretion, to protect the public welfare, order that any permit issued pursuant to this section be immediately suspended or revoked and that the person cease and desist from the actions constituting such violation or which would constitute such violation. [After such an order is issued, the person named therein may, not later than fourteen days after receipt of the order, file a written request for a hearing. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.] Any person aggrieved by any order of the municipal official may appeal to the superior court for the judicial district in which the municipality is located.

[(2) Whenever the commissioner finds as the result of an investigation that any person has violated any provision of this section or section 7-169a or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto or made any false statement in any application for a permit or in any report required by this section or section 7-169a or by the commissioner, the commissioner may send a notice to such person by certified mail, return receipt requested. Any such notice shall include (A) a reference to the section or regulation alleged to have been violated or the application or report in which an alleged false statement was made, (B) a short and plain statement of the matter asserted or charged, (C) the fact that any permit issued pursuant to this section may be suspended or revoked for such violation or false statement and the maximum penalty that may be imposed for such violation or false statement, and (D) the time and place for the hearing. Such hearing shall be fixed for a date not earlier than thirty days after the notice is mailed.

(3) The commissioner shall hold a hearing upon the charges made unless such person fails to appear at the hearing. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. If such person fails to appear at the hearing or if, after the hearing, the commissioner finds that such person committed such a violation or made such a false

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statement, the commissioner may, in his or her discretion, suspend or revoke such permit and order that a civil penalty of not more than two hundred dollars be imposed upon such person for such violation or false statement. The commissioner shall send a copy of any order issued pursuant to this subdivision by certified mail, return receipt requested, to any person named in such order. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner under this subdivision shall have a right of appeal pursuant to section 4-183.]

[(4)] (2) Whenever the [commissioner] municipal official revokes a permit issued pursuant to this section, [he or she] the municipal official shall not issue any permit to such permittee for one year after the date of such revocation.

[(5)] (3) Any person who promotes or operates any bingo game [without a permit therefor] for which a permit is required pursuant to this section, or who violates any other provision of this section or section 7-169a, as amended by this act, [or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto,] or who makes any false statement in any application for a permit or in any report required by this section or section 7-169a, as amended by this act, or by the [commissioner] municipal official shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

Sec. 2. Section 7-169a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

Every organization desiring to apply for a permit under subsection [(e)] (d) of section 7-169, as amended by this act, to operate bingo games shall, before making any such application, register with the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official on forms furnished by the [commissioner] municipal official and secure an identification number. All applications for permits, amendment of permits, reports and any other papers relating to games of bingo shall bear the identification number of the organization involved. Neither

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registration nor the assignment of an identification number, which may be revoked for cause, shall constitute, or be any evidence of, the eligibility of any organization to receive a permit for or to conduct any [game of] bingo game.

Sec. 3. Section 7-169c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "bingo game" and "municipal official" have the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section 7-169, as amended by this act.

~~[(a)]~~ (b) Any organization whose membership consists of persons sixty years of age or over may operate and conduct bingo games on and after January 1, 1989, for the amusement and recreation of its members without a permit as required by section 7-169, as amended by this act, provided (1) such organization has registered with and applied for and received an identification number from the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official, (2) such organization does not charge an admission fee in excess of one dollar, (3) the prize or prizes awarded do not exceed fifty dollars in value, either in cash or merchandise, and (4) only active members of such organization assist in the operation of the bingo games without compensation. The [commissioner] municipal official may revoke any such registration for cause.

~~[(b)]~~ (c) Each such organization which operates bingo games shall keep accurate records of receipts and disbursements, which shall be available for inspection by the [commissioner] municipal official.

~~[(c)]~~ (d) Each such organization shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 7-169, as amended by this act, and 7-169a, as amended by this act.

~~[(d)]~~ The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt such

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regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, as are necessary to carry out effectively the provisions of this section in order to prevent fraud and protect the public, which regulations shall have the effect of law.]

Sec. 4. Section 7-169d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

(a) [As used in] For the purposes of this section, (1) ["bingo"] "bingo game" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-169, as amended by this act, and (2) "bingo products" means bingo ball equipment, bingo cards or bingo paper.

(b) Each group or organization authorized to operate or conduct a bingo game or series of bingo games pursuant to sections 7-169 [7-169a and] to 7-169c, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall use bingo products that are (1) owned in full by such group or organization, (2) used without compensation by such group or organization, or (3) rented or purchased from a bingo product manufacturer or equipment dealer who is registered with the Commissioner of Consumer Protection in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Each applicant for registration as a bingo product manufacturer or equipment dealer shall apply to the Commissioner of Consumer Protection on such forms as the commissioner prescribes. The application shall be accompanied by an annual fee of two thousand five hundred dollars payable to the State Treasurer. Each applicant for an initial registration shall submit to state and national criminal history records checks conducted in accordance with section 29-17a before such registration is issued.

(d) No registered bingo product manufacturer or equipment dealer shall rent or sell any type of bingo product that has not been approved by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

(e) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may revoke for cause

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any registration issued [in accordance with] pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(f) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 5. Section 7-169e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "bingo game" and "municipal official" have the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section 7-169, as amended by this act.

~~[(a)]~~ (b) Any parent teacher association or organization may operate and conduct [games of bingo, as defined in section 7-169,] bingo games for the amusement and recreation of such association's or organization's members and guests without a permit, as required by [said] section 7-169, as amended by this act, provided (1) such association or organization registers annually with the [Department of Consumer Protection] municipal official and pays an annual registration fee of [eighty] not more than seventy-five dollars, (2) such association or organization obtains an identification number from the [department] municipal official, (3) such association or organization charges an admission fee of not more than one dollar, (4) each individual prize of cash or merchandise offered does not exceed fifty dollars in value, and (5) only active members of such association or organization assist in the operation of the games of bingo and assist without compensation. The [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official may revoke any such registration for cause. [Any registration fees collected in accordance with this subsection shall be remitted to the state.]

~~[(b)]~~ (c) Each such association or organization shall keep accurate

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records of receipts and disbursements related to such [games of] bingo games, and such records shall be available for inspection by the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official.

[(c)] (d) Each such association or organization shall be exempt from the requirements of sections 7-169, as amended by this act, and 7-169a, as amended by this act.

[(d) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section in order to prevent fraud and protect the public.]

Sec. 6. Subsection (h) of section 7-169h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

(h) (1) The department may issue a permit to sell sealed tickets to any organization or group specified in subsection [(d)] (c) of section 7-169, as amended by this act, which holds a bingo permit issued in accordance with the provisions of section 7-169, as amended by this act. Such permit shall be renewed annually.

(2) The department may issue a permit to sell sealed tickets to any organization or group specified in subsection [(d)] (c) of section 7-169, as amended by this act, which holds a club permit or nonprofit club permit under the provisions of chapter 545. Such permit shall be renewed annually.

(3) The department may issue a permit to sell sealed tickets to any organization or group specified in section 7-172 which holds a permit to operate a bazaar, issued in accordance with the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act.

(4) The department may issue a permit to sell sealed tickets to any

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charitable, civic, educational, fraternal, veterans' or religious organization, volunteer fire department or grange authorizing such organization to sell sealed tickets in conjunction with any social function or event sponsored or conducted by such organization. Any such organization shall have been organized for not less than two years prior to the date of its application for such permit. Such permit shall be renewed annually.

Sec. 7. Section 7-173 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "municipal official" means the chief of police of the municipality, or if there is no police department, the chief executive officer of the municipality, where the bazaar or raffle is to be conducted.

(b) Any organization desiring to operate a bazaar or raffle in a municipality which has adopted the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall make application, duly executed and verified, to the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official on a form to be prescribed by the [commissioner, in which shall be stated (1) the name and address of the applicant; (2) facts relating to its incorporation or organization; (3) the names, titles and addresses of its officers; (4) the kind of bazaar or raffle intended to be held, operated and conducted by the applicant; (5) the place where such bazaar or raffle is intended to be conducted by the applicant under the permit applied for; (6) the date or dates and the time or times when such bazaar or raffle is intended to be conducted by the applicant under the permit applied for; (7) in the case of a raffle, the number and price of tickets intended to be sold; (8) the items of expense intended to be incurred or paid in connection with the holding, operating and conducting of such bazaar or raffle and the names and addresses of the persons to whom, and the purposes for which, they are to be paid; (9) the items of merchandise offered, the

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price to be paid by the organization therefor or the retail value of any prize donated, and the names and addresses of the persons from whom purchased or by whom donated; (10) the specific purposes to which the entire net proceeds of such bazaar or raffle are to be devoted and in what manner; and (11)] municipal official. The form shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the bazaar or raffle to be conducted and any other information which the [commissioner] municipal official reasonably requires for the protection of the public. In each application there shall be designated three active members of the applicant under whom the bazaar or raffle described in the application is to be held, operated and conducted and to the application shall be appended a statement signed, under penalty of false statement, by such members so designated that they are residents of this state and will be responsible for the holding, operation and conduct of such bazaar or raffle in accordance with the terms of the permit and the provisions of said sections, and that the statements contained in the application are, to the best of their knowledge and belief, true. [The commissioner shall forward such application to the chief of police of the municipality or, if there is no police department, to the chief executive officer of the municipality.]

Sec. 8. Section 7-174 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

After receipt of an application [from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, the chief of police or chief executive officer, as the case may be, shall, on behalf of the commissioner,] pursuant to section 7-173, as amended by this act, the municipal official, as defined in said section, shall, for any permit where the total aggregate prize would exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars, make or cause to be made an investigation of the qualifications of the applicant and the facts stated in the application and, if [such chief of police or chief executive officer] the municipal official determines that the applicant is

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qualified to hold, operate and conduct a bazaar or raffle under the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act, that the members of the applicant designated in the application to hold, operate or conduct such bazaar or raffle are residents of this state, bona fide active members of the applicant and persons of good moral character and have never been convicted of a felony and that such bazaar or raffle is to be held, operated and conducted in accordance with the provisions of said sections, [and administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto, such chief of police or chief executive officer shall, with the approval of the commissioner,] the municipal official shall issue a permit to such applicant. [Any investigation required pursuant to this section of the qualifications of an applicant for a "Class No. 7" permit, authorized pursuant to section 7-175, and any issuance of a "Class No. 7" permit shall be made by the commissioner.]

Sec. 9. Section 7-176 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

The fees to be charged for permits issued pursuant to section 7-175, as amended by this act, shall be as follows: A "Class No. 1" permit, [fifty dollars, twenty-five] not to exceed seventy-five dollars; [to be retained by the state at the time application for the permit is made and twenty-five dollars remitted to the municipality upon issuance of the permit;] a "Class No. 2" permit, [twenty dollars, ten] not to exceed thirty dollars; [to be retained by the state at the time application for the permit is made and ten dollars to be remitted to the municipality upon issuance of the permit;] a "Class No. 3" permit, [twenty] not to exceed sixty dollars for each day of the bazaar; [, ten dollars to be retained by the state at the time application for the permit is made and ten dollars to be remitted to the municipality upon issuance of the permit;] a "Class No. 4" permit, [five] not to exceed fifteen dollars; [, to be remitted to the municipality;] a "Class No. 5" permit, [eighty dollars,

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forty] not to exceed one hundred twenty dollars; [to be retained by the state at the time application for the permit is made and forty dollars remitted to the municipality upon issuance of the permit;] a "Class No. 6" permit, [one hundred dollars, fifty] not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars; [to be retained by the state at the time application for the permit is made and fifty dollars remitted to the municipality upon issuance of the permit;] and a "Class No. 7" permit, [one] not to exceed three hundred dollars. [to be retained by the state.]

Sec. 10. Subsection (c) of section 7-177a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

(c) Any raffle described in subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall conform to the requirements of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act. Each organization conducting a raffle described in this section shall deposit all proceeds from such raffle in a special checking account established and maintained by the organization which shall be subject to audit by the [Department of Consumer Protection] municipal official, as defined in section 7-173, as amended by this act. Any expense incidental to the conduct of such raffle shall be paid from the gross receipts of raffle tickets and only by checks drawn from such checking account. All cash prizes awarded shall be paid from such checking account.

Sec. 11. Section 7-180 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

If there is any change in the facts set forth in the application for a permit to conduct a bazaar or raffle subsequent to the making of such application, the applicant shall immediately notify the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official of such change. [, and the commissioner may, if he] The municipal official may, if he or she deems such action advisable in the public interest, revoke such permit.

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Sec. 12. Section 7-181 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

(a) For the purposes of this section, "municipal official" means the chief of police of the municipality, or if there is no police department, the chief executive officer of the municipality, where the bazaar or raffle is to be conducted or is conducted.

[(a)] (b) Whenever it appears to the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official, after an investigation that any person is violating or is about to violate any provision of sections 7-170 to [7-185, inclusive, or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto, the commissioner may in his] 7-182, inclusive, as amended by this act, or made any false statement in any application for a permit or in any report required by the provisions of said sections, the municipal official may in his or her discretion, to protect the public welfare, order that any registration or permit issued pursuant to said sections be immediately suspended or revoked and that the person cease and desist from the actions constituting such violation or which would constitute such violation. [After such an order is issued, the person named therein may, within fourteen days after receipt of the order, file a written request for a hearing. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.] Any person aggrieved by any order of the municipal official made pursuant to this subsection may appeal to the superior court for the judicial district in which the municipality is located.

[(b)] Whenever the Commissioner of Consumer Protection finds as the result of an investigation that any person has violated any provision of sections 7-170 to 7-185, inclusive, or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto or made any false statement in any application for a permit or in any report required by the provisions of said sections, the commissioner may send a notice to such person by certified mail, return receipt requested. Any such notice shall include

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(1) a reference to the section or regulation alleged to have been violated or the application or report in which an alleged false statement was made, (2) a short and plain statement of the matter asserted or charged, (3) the fact that any registration or permit issued pursuant to sections 7-170 to 7-185, inclusive, may be suspended or revoked for such violation or false statement and the maximum penalty that may be imposed for such violation or false statement, and (4) the time and place for the hearing. Such hearing shall be fixed for a date not earlier than fourteen days after the notice is mailed.

(c) The commissioner shall hold a hearing upon the charges made unless such person fails to appear at the hearing. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. If such person fails to appear at the hearing or if, after the hearing, the commissioner finds that such person committed such a violation or made such a false statement, the commissioner may, in his discretion, suspend or revoke such registration or permit and order that a civil penalty of not more than two hundred dollars be imposed upon such person for such violation or false statement. The commissioner shall send a copy of any order issued pursuant to this subsection by certified mail, return receipt requested, to any person named in such order. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner under this subsection shall have a right of appeal pursuant to section 4-183.]

[(d)] (c) Whenever the [commissioner] municipal official revokes a permit issued pursuant to sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act, [the issuing authority] the municipal official shall not issue any permit to such permittee for three years after the date of such violation.

Sec. 13. Section 7-182 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

Any sponsoring organization that holds, operates or conducts any

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bazaar or raffle, and its members who were in charge thereof, shall furnish to the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection a verified statement] municipal official, as defined in subsection (a) of section 7-181, as amended by this act, a report showing (1) the amount of the gross receipts derived from each bazaar or raffle, (2) in the case of a raffle, the number and price of tickets sold, (3) each item of expense incurred or paid, and each item of expenditure made or to be made and the name and address of each person to whom each such item has been or is to be paid, (4) the net profit derived from each bazaar or raffle and the uses to which the net profit has been or is to be applied, and (5) a list of prizes of a retail value of fifty dollars or more offered or given with the amount paid for each prize purchased or the retail value for each prize donated and the names and addresses of the persons to whom the prizes were given. Such report shall be furnished during the next succeeding month. The [commissioner] municipal official shall keep such report on file and available for public inspection for a period of one year thereafter. The sponsoring organization shall maintain and keep any books and records that may be necessary to substantiate the particulars of such report, which books and records shall be preserved for at least one year from the date of such report and shall be available for inspection. Such report shall be certified to under penalty of false statement by the three persons designated in the permit application as being responsible for the bazaar or raffle.

Sec. 14. Section 7-183 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

Each such report may be examined by the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official, as defined in subsection (a) of section 7-181, as amended by this act, and compared with the original application. The [commissioner] municipal official may refer any violation of sections 7-170 to [7-185] 7-182, inclusive, as amended by

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this act, [or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto found therein] to the office of the state's attorney having jurisdiction over the municipality in which the sponsoring organization is located and, if the bazaar or raffle was located in a different municipality than the municipality in which the sponsoring organization is located, to the office of the state's attorney having jurisdiction over the municipality in which the bazaar or raffle was located. Such state's attorney office shall investigate and take such action as the facts require.

Sec. 15. Section 7-185a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act, [and the regulations adopted thereunder,] any organized church, volunteer fire company or veterans organization or association conducting a bazaar or raffle, (1) may be permitted to redeem prizes in cash; (2) shall be exempt from the requirement of preserving unsold raffle tickets beyond ninety days after the conclusion of the holding, operating and conducting of such bazaar or raffle and shall be permitted to dispose of unclaimed prizes after such ninety days; and (3) may file a reconciliation of expenditures and receipts signed by an officer in lieu of an accountant.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act, [and the regulations adopted thereunder,] any sponsoring organization qualified to conduct a bazaar or raffle under the provisions of section 7-172 may conduct such bazaar or have the actual drawing of such raffle in a municipality other than the municipality which grants the permit, provided the chief of police or if there is no police department, the chief executive officer of the other municipality has in writing approved such bazaar or drawing.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-177, any sponsoring

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organization conducting a bazaar may operate "fifty-fifty" coupon games each day of a permitted bazaar event and may award cash prizes of fifty per cent of "fifty-fifty" coupon game sales for each coupon drawing conducted. Not more than three scheduled drawings may be held on any day on which a bazaar is permitted. A "fifty-fifty" coupon game shall be operated from an authorized bazaar booth [subject to the regulation of the Commissioner of Consumer Protection] and shall allow for the sale of "fifty-fifty" coupons at a predetermined uniform price. Each "fifty-fifty" coupon shall be consecutively numbered and shall have a correspondingly numbered stub. Each sponsoring organization shall provide different colored coupons for each drawing and shall award one prize for each drawing held. Each sponsoring organization conducting such games shall conspicuously post, at each bazaar booth at which such games are conducted, a notice or notices which shall include the dates, times and places of any "fifty-fifty" coupon drawings, as well as the prices and colors of coupons to be sold for each drawing. The [commissioner] municipal officer shall prescribe the form of such notice which shall contain the following statement: "Holders of coupons must be present to claim a prize." Each such organization shall account for each coupon printed and sold for each drawing and shall announce the amount of sales and the prize to be awarded immediately prior to each drawing. The sponsoring organization shall preserve all sold and unsold coupons or stubs for a period of at least one year from the date of the verified statement required pursuant to section 7-182, as amended by this act.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7-177, any sponsoring organization qualified to conduct a bazaar or raffle under the provisions of section 7-172 may operate a cow-chip raffle once a calendar year and may award cash prizes in connection with participation in such a raffle, in addition to those prizes authorized pursuant to section 7-177. Such raffles shall conform to the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act. [and shall

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be subject to regulation by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.] A cow-chip raffle shall allow for the sale of consecutively numbered tickets with correspondingly numbered stubs, entitling the holders of such tickets to the temporary possession of a plot of land for purposes of the conduct of the cow-chip raffle. Each sponsoring organization conducting a cow-chip raffle shall provide for a suitable land area on which the cow-chip raffle activity is to be conducted. The area shall be sufficiently enclosed so as to confine any animal utilized in the conduct of a cow-chip raffle during the period in which the animal is so utilized. The area shall be adequately marked so as to display the number of plots to be utilized, which shall correspond to the number of cow-chip raffle tickets to be sold. The manner in which winners in a cow-chip raffle are determined shall be clearly stated prior to the commencement of a cow-chip raffle drawing and each sponsoring organization shall conspicuously post an information board which shall display the consecutively numbered plots of the cow-chip raffle event. A cow-chip raffle drawing shall commence at a designated time and shall continue until all winners of authorized prizes have been determined. No person may feed, lead or handle any animal utilized in a cow-chip raffle once the animal has entered into the enclosed area from which winners will be determined. Each sponsoring organization conducting a cow-chip raffle shall deposit all proceeds from the conduct of such raffle in a special checking account established and maintained by such organization, which shall be subject to audit by the [commissioner] municipal official. Any expense incidental to the conduct of such raffle shall be paid from the gross receipts of cow-chip raffle tickets and only by checks drawn from such checking account. All cash prizes awarded shall be paid from such checking account.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act, [and the regulations adopted pursuant to said sections,] any sponsoring organization conducting a bazaar may operate a "teacup raffle" and may, through the sale of

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chances, award prizes consisting of gift certificates or merchandise. No such organization may conduct more than one scheduled "teacup raffle" drawing for all prizes offered on any day on which a bazaar is permitted. A "teacup raffle" shall be operated from an authorized bazaar booth, [and shall be subject to regulation by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.] Each "teacup raffle" ticket shall (1) be consecutively numbered and have a correspondingly numbered stub that shall include the name, address and telephone number of the purchaser, or (2) be a sheet containing up to twenty-five coupons, each bearing the same number, and including a "hold" stub for the purchaser and a correspondingly numbered stub including the name, address and telephone number of the purchaser. Sheet tickets shall be made available for purchase by permittees as fund raising items at a price not to exceed ten per cent above the purchase price. Each sponsoring organization conducting such raffle shall conspicuously post, at each bazaar booth at which such raffle is conducted, a notice or notices that include the date and time of any "teacup raffle" drawing. The sponsoring organization shall preserve all sold and unsold tickets or stubs for a period of at least one year from the date of the verified statement required pursuant to section 7-182, as amended by this act.

(f) [(1)] Any sponsoring organization qualified to conduct a bazaar or raffle under the provisions of section 7-172 may operate a duck-race raffle once each calendar year. Such raffles shall conform to the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act. [and shall be subject to regulation by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.] For the purpose of this subsection, "duck-race raffle" means a raffle in which artificial ducks, numbered consecutively to correspond with the number of tickets sold for such raffle, are placed in a naturally moving stream of water at a designated starting point and in which the ticket corresponding to the number of the first duck to pass a designated finishing point is the winning ticket. [(2)] The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,

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that establish procedures for the operation of duck-race raffles.]

(g) [(1)] Any sponsoring organization qualified to conduct a bazaar or raffle under the provisions of section 7-172 may operate a frog-race raffle once each calendar year. Such raffles shall conform to the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act. [and shall be subject to regulation by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.] For the purpose of this subsection, "frog-race raffle" means a raffle in which artificial frogs [conforming to specifications approved by the commissioner and] numbered consecutively to correspond with the number of tickets sold for such raffle, are placed in a naturally moving stream of water at a designated starting point and in which the ticket corresponding to the number of the first frog to pass a designated finishing point is the winning ticket. [(2) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, that establish procedures for the operation of frog-race raffles.]

(h) [(1)] Any sponsoring organization qualified to conduct a bazaar or raffle under the provisions of section 7-172 may operate a golf ball-drop raffle once each calendar year. Any such raffle shall conform to the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act. [and shall be subject to regulation by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.] For the purposes of this subsection, "golf ball-drop raffle" means a raffle in which golf balls, numbered consecutively to correspond with the number of tickets sold for such raffle, are dropped from a pay loader, bucket truck, crane or similar vehicle, platform, helicopter, hot air balloon or other aircraft hovering above a designated target, and in which the ticket corresponding to the number of the first golf ball to be closest to the center of the designated target is the winning ticket. [(2) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, establishing procedures for the operation of golf ball-drop raffles.]

Sec. 16. Section 7-185b of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

(a) [As used in] For the purposes of this section, "tuition raffle" means a raffle in which the prize is payment of the tuition or part of the tuition at an educational institution or payment of a student loan or part of a student loan for a student recipient designated by the raffle winner, and "municipal official" means the chief of police of the municipality, or if there is no police department, the chief executive officer of the municipality, where the tuition raffle is to be conducted or is conducted.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-170 to 7-186, inclusive, as amended by this act, any organization qualified to conduct a bazaar or raffle under section 7-172 may conduct a [special] tuition raffle once each calendar year. The [Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall adopt such regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. Said regulations shall] municipality where the tuition raffle is to be conducted may, by ordinance, (1) allow any organization permitted to conduct a [special] tuition raffle to fund all or a part of a student recipient's education or to pay all or part of a student recipient's student loan each year for a period not to exceed four years, (2) permit the student recipient to be the actual tuition raffle winner, a relative of the raffle winner or a student chosen by the raffle winner, (3) give authority to the sponsoring organization to permit the tuition prize to be divided among student recipients designated by the raffle winner, (4) provide that the tuition prize be paid each consecutive year, commencing with the first year of the student recipient's education at an accredited private or parochial school, or public or independent institution of higher education selected by the student recipient, (5) provide that the tuition prize be paid directly to the educational institution or financial institution that made the student loan designated by the student recipient, and no tuition prize shall be

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redeemed or redeemable for cash, and (6) provide that the tuition raffle winner have a period not to exceed four years to designate a student recipient. For the purposes of this section, "financial institution" means a bank, as defined in section 36a-2, an out-of-state bank, as defined in section 36a-2, a Connecticut credit union, as defined in section 36a-2, an out-of-state credit union, as defined in section 36a-2, an institutional lender, any subsidiary or affiliate of such bank, out-of-state bank, Connecticut credit union, out-of-state credit union or institutional lender, or other lender licensed by the Department of Banking.

(c) All proceeds of the [special] tuition raffle shall be deposited in a special dedicated bank account approved by the [Commissioner of Consumer Protection] municipal official, and all [special] tuition raffle expenses shall be paid from such account. The [commissioner] municipal official shall prescribe the maintenance of tuition raffle accounts by any sponsoring organization and such accounts shall be subject to audit by the [commissioner or a designee. The commissioner] municipal official. The municipal official may require any organization conducting a tuition raffle to post a performance bond in an amount sufficient to fully fund the [special] tuition raffle prize to be awarded.

(d) Any organization permitted to conduct a [special] tuition raffle shall file a tuition raffle financial report in a manner prescribed by the [commissioner] municipal official. Such report shall detail the status of the tuition prize money or the raffle and any other information that the [commissioner] municipal official may require, on a quarterly basis, during the months of January, April, July and October, until all tuition or student loan payments for each [special] tuition raffle have been paid.

Sec. 17. Section 7-186 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

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Any person who violates any provision of sections 7-170 to [7-185, inclusive, or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto] 7-185b, inclusive, as amended by this act, or who makes any false statement in any application for a permit or in any report required by the provisions of said sections shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined and imprisoned.

Sec. 18. Section 7-185 of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective January 1, 2018*)

Approved July 11, 2017