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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 12, 2017

TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Megan Cramer, DOA Legislative Liaison

RE: Assembly Bill 2 – remedial legislation suggested by the Department of Administration relating to various changes to bingo and raffles

Assembly Bill 2 is remedial legislation that was suggested by the Department of Administration to the Law Revision Committee under s. 13.83(1)(c)4. and 5., to make changes to certain areas of the bingo and raffle laws. These changes have been determined as minor substantive changes in the statutes that are desirable as a matter of public policy by the Law Revision Committee. Explanations of each of the changes made in the legislation are included below.

Section 1 and Section 2:

These sections of the bills make minor changes to the definitions of “Calendar” and “Calendar raffle” under the raffle law in order to provide clarity in the statutes. The Division of Gaming staff fields numerous questions annually related to confusion with what these two terms mean under their current definition and how to comply with the law when conducting raffles. Adopting these changes will help clear up confusion and provide the necessary clarity to charitable organizations in their raffle operations.

Section 3, Section 4, Section 5, and Section 8:

These sections make changes to how a single person and/or member of an organization is specified in certain sections of the statutes. The legislation changes “each designated member” to “the designated member” and “an active member” to “one active member.” These changes provide consistency with other sections of the statutes in using “each” instead of “the” and “one” instead of “an.”

Section 6:

Under current law, organizations are required to use bingo balls that are all one color, size, shape, weight, and balance to ensure that each ball has an equal agitation with any other object within the receptacle. LRB 1278/3 would delete the requirement that all bingo balls be the same color which would have no impact on the ball’s ability to agitate equally as long as all other required characteristics in the statutes are met. Organizations generally prefer using the multi-color bingo balls because they are of much higher quality than the all-white sets that are commonly used to meet current statutory requirements. This change would have no impact on the operation of a bingo game but would allow operators to use sturdier and higher quality bingo balls.

Section 7:

This section alters s.563.51(27) which determines what happens if there is more than one winner in a bingo game. Currently, the statutes require that a minimum prize “not exceeding \$10” be set for each winner. Many bingo workers find this language confusing, so the legislation requires that a minimum prize of “no more than \$10” be set. This change provides clarity for bingo workers in determining what must happen if there is more than one winner.

Section 9:

The current language in Section 9 is confusing to raffle license holders and is not consistent with other statutory language in s.563.93(2g)(a). This change will provide uniformity and clarity in the statutory language without altering any of the current statutory requirements.