

Senate Bill 316

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Mullis of the 53rd, Harper of the 7th, Beach of the 21st and Ginn of the 47th

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to bingo, so as to specify that lots shall be chosen by a natural person;  
3 to remove the daily permissible prize limitation while preserving the weekly permissible  
4 prize limitation; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to bingo, is amended by revising paragraph (1) of Code Section 16-12-51, relating  
10 to definitions, as follows:

11 "(1) 'Bingo game' or 'nonprofit bingo game' means a game of chance played on cards  
12 with numbered squares in which counters or indicators are placed on numbers chosen by  
13 lot and won by covering a previously specified number or order of numbered squares.  
14 A bingo game may be played manually or with an electronic or computer device that  
15 stores the numbers from a player's card or cards, tracks the numbers chosen by lot when  
16 such numbers are entered by the player, and notifies the player of a winning combination;  
17 provided, however, that the numbers chosen by lot shall be chosen by a natural person  
18 who is physically located on the premises or property described in Code Section 16-12-57  
19 on which the game is operated. Such words, terms, or phrases, as used in this paragraph,  
20 shall be strictly construed to include only the series of acts generally defined as bingo and  
21 shall exclude all other activity."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Said part is further amended by revising subsection (f) of Code Section 16-12-60, relating  
24 to rules and regulations relative to bingo, as follows:

25 "(f) It shall be unlawful to award prizes in excess of ~~\$1,500.00 in cash or gifts of~~  
26 ~~equivalent value during any calendar day~~ or \$3,000.00 in cash or gifts of equivalent value

27 during any calendar week. It shall be unlawful to exceed such ~~limits~~ limitation at any  
28 combination of locations operated by a single licensee or such licensee's agents or  
29 employees. It shall be unlawful for two or more licensees to pyramid the valuation of prizes  
30 in such manner as to exceed the ~~limits~~ limitation contained in this Code section. The term  
31 'equivalent value' shall mean the fair market value of the gift on the date the gift is given  
32 as the prize in a bingo game."

33 **SECTION 3.**

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.