

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:30 a.m. on March 2, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Steve Morris
Senator Tim Owens

Committee staff present:

Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jim Story, All American Bingo
Gary Walker, Hayden High School
Dave Thomas, American Legion
Charles Yunker, American Legion Headquarters
Jim Cochran, Mid American Consulting

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Committee Minutes for January 25, 26, 27, February 3, 8, 9, and 10 that were distributed on February 22, 2011, with no changes stand approved.

SB 201 - Bingo games; prize limits, time, location and conduct of games

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearings on **SB 201**.

Staff provided an overview of the bill.

Jim Story, President, All American Bingo, appeared in support of the bill. (Attachment 1) The bill would allow an event ticket game to be played in conjunction with a regular game of call bingo and would allow more than three (3) games of event tickets to be played during a single call bingo session.

Gary Walker, Hayden High School, spoke in favor of the bill. (Attachment 2) The bill will allow more flexibility in what can be charged for playing papers and the monies paid in prizes. Some of the highlights are:

- A change in how individual games end allowing pull tab games to finish after regular bingos
- The addition of a game such as Downline Derby
- Minimum and maximum charges for papers and pull tabs
- Loosen restrictions on the playing of early bird games
- Changes in how progressive pots are increased each session

Mr. Walker requested amended language on page 14, Section C on the forth line changing the word “first” to “last”, and delete all of Section 4.

Dave Thomas, Finance Officer for American Legion Post 23, Leavenworth, Kansas, testified in favor of the bill. (Attachment 3) The bill will modernize the regulations and the benefits of allowing new games, and pull tabs, such as Donwline Derby. American Legions need these games to subsidize their income, and not lose patrons to Missouri, and Oklahoma, which have much more lenient bingo regulations, and offer larger payout prizes.

Charles Yunker, The American Legion Department of Kansas, spoke in favor of the bill. (Attachment 4) The bill is the result of compromises between their organization and others who support updating the games of Bingo in Kansas. These compromises are long overdue in order to allow both large and small Bingo operations to remain somewhat competitive in the face of increased gaming opportunities in

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Federal and State Committee at 10:30 a.m. on March 2, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Kansas.

Jim Cockran, Mid American Consulting, appeared in support of the bill. (Attachment 5) The bill is about giving non-profit organizations who play bingo as a fund-raiser more flexibility in the running of their bingo games. Bingo revenues are down to both the groups and the State, mostly from the encroachment of Indian Casinos and now state owned casinos.

Susan Riley, Chair, Kansas Charitable Gaming Association, provided written testimony in support of the bill. (Attachment 6) Ms. Riley stated in her testimony that almost without exception the organizations all depend on the revenue from bingo in order to keep their doors open. Many of the bingo organizations serve our veterans, senior citizens, and the youth of their community, and provide funding where the counties and state cannot.

Patsy Congrove, Kansas Department of Revenue – Charitable Gaming, provided highlights of the bill. The bill would amend existing statutes concerning bingo games and would add a new instant bingo game. The bill would make the following amendments:

- Remove the \$1 charge limit for regular games of bingo
- Raise the charge for a single instant bingo ticket from \$1 to \$2
- Increase the number of hours instant bingo tickets can be sold prior to the start of a regular session from one to two hours
- Remove the \$1,000 prize limit for progressive games
- Increase the starting prize for progressive games from \$250 to \$400
- Remove the three game limit of instant bingo
- Increase the number of mini games allowed per session from 20 to 30
- Allow mini games to begin two hours prior to, or continue one hour after, the regular session
- Exclude food offered to volunteer duty staff that is less than \$10 in value from being considered remuneration
- Allow games to be operated by a licensee, including a “beneficiary organization”
- Require at least one member of the licensee organization to be on duty, assist with the game, and be listed with the Office of Charitable Gaming

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearings on **SB 201**.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.