

H.599

An act relating to games of chance organized by nonprofit organizations

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 2143 is amended to read:

§ 2143. NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

(a)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, ~~a~~:

(A) A nonprofit organization, as defined in 31 V.S.A. § 1201(5), may organize and execute, and an individual may participate in lotteries, raffles, or other games of chance for the purpose of raising funds to be used in charitable, religious, educational, and civic undertakings or used by fraternal organizations to provide direct support to charitable, religious, educational, or civic undertakings with which they are affiliated.

(B) A nonprofit organization, as defined in 31 V.S.A. § 1201(5), may organize and execute and a member of that organization may participate in lotteries, raffles, and other games of chance in which all of the proceeds are awarded as prizes to the members that participated. An individual who is not a member of the nonprofit organization shall not be allowed to participate in a lottery, raffle, or other game of chance organized under this subdivision (B).

(2) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, gambling machines and other mechanical devices described in section 2135 of this title shall not be ~~utilized~~ used under authority of this section.

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(d) Casino events shall be limited as follows:

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(4) As used in this subsection, “casino event” means an event held during any 24-hour period at which ~~any game of chance is~~ a card tournament or casino table games, such as baccarat, blackjack, craps, poker, or roulette, or both are conducted except those. Games of chance prohibited by subdivision 2135(a)(1) or (2) of this title: shall not be permitted at a “casino event.” A “casino event” shall not include a fair, bazaar, field days, agricultural exposition, or similar event that ~~utilizes~~ uses a wheel of fortune, chuck-a-luck, or other ~~such~~ games commonly conducted at such events, or break-open tickets, bingo, a lottery, or a raffle. “Card tournament” means an event during which participants, as individual players or members of a team, pay a fixed entry fee to play a series of card games, with the tournament winners determined based on the cumulative results of the games and the winners’ prizes determined as a portion of the proceeds from the entry fees.

(e) Games of chance shall be limited as follows:

(1) ~~All~~ Except as otherwise provided pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section, all proceeds raised by a game of chance shall be used exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and civic undertakings after deducting:

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Sec. 2. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

On or before November 15, 2018, the Attorney General shall:

(1) create and make available to nonprofit organizations an educational pamphlet describing the provisions of 13 V.S.A. § 2143, including permitted types of wagering and gambling activities, as well as record keeping and reporting requirements; and

(2) update the gambling page on the Attorney General's website to include the amendments to 13 V.S.A. § 2143 made pursuant to this act and to provide a link to the educational pamphlet created pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.