



Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Anne Arundel County Council

From: Lori L. Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney /s/

Via: Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney /s/

Date: April 18, 2022

Subject: Bill No. 36-22: Licenses and Registrations – Amusements – Linked Bingo Games

Legislative Summary

This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Office of Law for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Bill No. 36-22.

Background. The County Code requires licensure of providers of commercial bingo in the County. See §§ 11-2-201, *et seq.* of the County Code. A separate license is required for “linked bingo”, which is “a bingo game simultaneously played at two or more locations at which licensees are authorized to conduct commercial bingo games”. (§ 11-2-201(10)). This definition of linked bingo is not broad enough to include bingo players to participate virtually from various locations because it requires players to be at one of the licensed commercial bingo sites in the County.

Purpose. The purpose of the Bill is to modify the provisions related to licensing of linked bingo to allow it to include virtual participation from any location.

Summary. In **Section 1** of the Bill, the definition of “bingo” is modified to clarify that it includes “linked bingo” (§ 11-2-201(2)), and the definition of “linked bingo” is expanded to include virtual play from any location so long as it is operated by a licensed linked bingo provided from a licensed commercial bingo location (§ 11-2-201(10)). The definition of “linked bingo provider” is modified to clarify that it includes the linked bingo game operator (§ 11-2-201(11)).

Subsection 11-2-208(a) is amended to clarify that linked bingo must be operated from the licensed location, but that players may participate from any other location and may participate virtually. **Subsection 11-2-208(e)** is added to require linked bingo games to include notices and signs otherwise required by that section.

Note: This Legislative Summary provides a synopsis of the bill as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the bill.

Subsection 11-2-218(a) modifies the requirements for linked bingo to include operation from a location at which commercial bingo is licensed as specified in the linked bingo license, to provide that linked bingo players may participate from different locations and may participate virtually, and that linked bingo prize winners must be paid within 48 hours of the conclusion of the linked bingo game.

Section 2 of the Bill provides that it will take effect 45 days from the date it becomes law.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

cc: Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive
Kai Boggess-deBruin, Chief of Staff
Matthew Power, Chief Administrative Officer
Peter Baron, Legislative Liaison
Mark Wedemeyer, Director of Inspections and Permits