



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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POLITICAL BINGO

House Bill 4729

Sponsor: Rep. Dan Gustafson

Committee: House Oversight & Ethics

Complete to 4-26-95

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4729 INTRODUCED 4-25-95

The bill would limit the cash contributions for bingo, millionaire parties ("Las Vegas nights"), and charity games (raffles) conducted by committees registered under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (Public Act 388 of 1976) to \$20, and would require that committees conducting such bingos, millionaire parties, or charity games keep records of the names, addresses, and total contributions of each person who contributed more than \$20 to the committee in the course of a calendar year.

Currently, the Traxler-McCauley-Law-Bowman Bingo Act (Public Act 382 of 1972) exempts from the requirements of other laws people who conduct or participate in bingo, millionaire parties, or charity games if they comply with the bingo act's provisions. The bill would amend the bingo act to require that committees registered under the campaign finance act (including ballot question committees, candidate committees, independent committees, political committees, political party committees "or any other committee" defined by and organized under the act) comply with the campaign finance act's requirements regarding cash contributions and recordkeeping if they also were licensed to conduct bingo, millionaire parties, and charity games under the bingo act.

Note: The bingo act allows certain "qualified organizations" to conduct bingo, millionaire parties, and charity games, defining these "qualified organizations" to include, generally, nonprofit bona fide religious, educational, service, senior citizens, fraternal, or veterans' organizations, as well as candidate committees as defined by, and organized under, the campaign finance act.

The campaign finance act limits cash contributions to a maximum of \$20 and cash expenditures to \$50. (Contributions of more than \$20 and expenditures of more than \$50 must be made by written instrument containing the names of the payor and payee.) The act also requires that a donor's name, address, and total contribution be recorded whenever a person contributes more than \$20 to a committee during a calendar year. (The act defines a "committee" as a "person" -- which includes both individuals and organizations or groups "acting jointly" -- who receives contributions or makes expenditures of \$500 or more in a calendar year in order to influence voters for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.)

The bill would take effect on April 1, 1995.

MCL 432.119

House Bill 4729 (4-26-95)