

- SUBJECT:** Authorization and regulation of progressive bingo games
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 5 ayes — Wilson, Yarbrough, Goolsby, Haggerty, A. Reyna  
0 nays  
4 absent — Flores, D. Jones, J. Moreno, Wise
- WITNESSES:** For — Phil Arnold, Several Houston Area Charities, I.W. Jewish School, Fine Arts Foundation, The Reunion Institute; Philip Arnold, Houston Charities; Steve Bresnan, Bingo Interest Group; Stephen Fenoglio, Various Texas Charities; Janice Woods, Bingo Is Good for Nonprofit Organizations;  
Against — None  
On — *Registered but did not testify:* Billy Atkins, Texas Lottery Commission
- BACKGROUND:** Progressive bingo is a bingo game in which in order to win, a specific pattern must be completed by the time a certain number of bingo balls have been selected. The game may continue over successive sessions until a player wins. The prize amount increases each session until someone wins.
- DIGEST:** HB 2119 would allow licensed authorized organizations to conduct progressive bingo games, but only one game per occasion. The \$750 limit that could be awarded for a single game would not apply to a progressive bingo game. The \$2,500 aggregate limit for prizes offered during a bingo game also would not apply to progressive bingo games.  
  
The prize awarded at the first round of a progressive bingo game could not exceed \$750. The prize could not increase by more than \$500 for each successive round played until the game was won. If no prize was awarded at a bingo occasion, the progressive bingo game would have to continue at future occasions of the same organization until a winner was declared. Consolation prizes awarded at each occasion could not exceed \$250.

A licensed authorized organization conducting a progressive bingo game would have to post rules before the start of a game that would have to remain in effect for the duration of the game. If more than one licensed authorized organization conducted bingo at the same location, each would be responsible for its own progressive bingo game.

A licensed authorized organization conducting a progressive bingo game would have to maintain adequate records of the game as required by the Lottery Commission. The records would have to include the amount the prize was increased at each occasion the game was continued, and the organization would have to maintain all gross receipts for each progressive game.

Prizes awarded in a progressive bingo game, including consolation prizes, would be subject to a prize fee, and local share provisions would apply to the fee. The commission would adopt rules, not later than October 1, 2001, to administer these provisions. Progressive bingo games would be prohibited from being conducted before the commission adopted those rules.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2001.