

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1615
(Representatives Grueneich, Hagert, Koppelman, Vetter, O'Brien)
(Senator Roers)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 53-06.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to securing approval for a gaming site authorization.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 2 of section 53-06.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

2. An eligible organization shall apply for a license to conduct only bingo, electronic quick shot bingo, raffles, calcuttas, pull tabs, punchboards, twenty-one, paddlewheels, poker, or sports pools by:
 - a. First securing approval for a site authorization from the governing body of the city or county in which the proposed site is located. ~~Approval, which may be granted at the discretion of the governing body,~~ The approved authorization must be recorded on a site authorization form that is to accompany the license application to the attorney general for final approval. An eligible organization may request a specific site location on the site authorization form.
- (1) A governing body may deny a site authorization only in accordance with an ordinance or written policy adopted or amended following public comment. Under the ordinance or policy, the governing body:
 - (a) May not require an eligible organization to donate net proceeds to the city, county, or related political subdivision or for community programs or services within the city or county as a condition for receiving a site authorization from the city or county;
 - (b) May not deny a site authorization solely because the eligible organization has not conducted gaming at the site;
 - (c) May not require that an eligible organization be located at a specific site or require a site to enter a lease with a specific organization as a condition of site authorization;
 - (d) May require a signed agreement between an eligible organization and a site owner before approving a site authorization. The agreement must be contingent on securing approval for the site authorization from the governing body of the city or county;
 - (e) May limit the type of games and, the number of electronic pull tab devices or tables for the game of twenty-one per site, the number of sites the governing body may approve per licensed organization, and the number of sites upon which a licensed organization may conduct games within the city or county; and
 - ~~(e)~~(f) May establish qualifications for an eligible organization to receive a site authorization; and
 - (g) May charge a one hundred dollar fee for a site authorization.

- (2) This subsection may not be construed to prohibit a governing body from:
 - (a) Creating and enforcing rules that are more stringent than state law regarding charitable gaming as otherwise permitted in code; or
 - (b) Denying a site authorization for just cause, including, after consultation with the attorney general, a violation of state law or local rules.
- b. Annually applying for a license from the attorney general before July first on a form prescribed by the attorney general and remitting a one hundred seventy-five dollar license fee for each city or county that approves a site authorization. The attorney general shall deposit twenty-five dollars of this fee into the charitable gaming technology fund under section 53-06.1-12.4. However, the attorney general may allow an organization that only conducts a raffle or calcutta in two or more cities or counties to annually apply for a consolidated license and remit a one hundred seventy-five dollar license fee for each city or county in which a site is located. The attorney general shall deposit twenty-five dollars of this fee into the charitable gaming technology fund under section 53-06.1-12.4. An organization shall document that it qualifies as an eligible organization. If an organization amends its primary purpose as stated in its articles of incorporation or materially changes its basic character, the organization shall reapply for licensure. The attorney general may deny issuance of a license or deny renewal of a license to an eligible organization that has obtained approval of site authorization under subdivision a, if the organization or site is not in compliance with applicable laws and rules.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1615.

House Vote: Yeas 79 Nays 10 Absent 5

Senate Vote: Yeas 44 Nays 0 Absent 3

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2025.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2025,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State