

In Opposition to SB 2373

House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Klemin

Submitted by Bill Kalanek, CGAND

March 5th, 2025

Chairman Klemin & Committee Members,

The Charitable Gaming Association of ND (CGAND) is in opposition to SB 2373 as it stands today. While this bill is an attempt to clarify and restrict particular gaming areas to **permanent** 21 and over only zones, this bill has harmful implications for small-town rural café/bars, fraternal and veterans clubs, and local community event centers across the state. Here are some of the effects of this bill:

- Bingo offering paper pull tabs, electronic pull tabs, and sports pools in conference and community areas would no longer be allowed. Bingo is routinely operated in common areas of fraternal clubs and community centers.
- Poker tournaments would not be allowed in common areas of veterans and fraternal clubs, community centers, banquet areas and rural café/bars. This will wipe out poker in rural areas as poker is routinely operated in larger common areas of fraternal clubs and community centers.
- Customers would not be allowed to purchase pull tabs and open at tables in community and common areas, and café seating. Small town café/bars and veterans and fraternal clubs have shared seating areas that are used for multiple purposes. This would no longer be allowed.
- Blackjack tables would not be allowed in the shared common areas, and could not be used for seating for bingo, dining or general seating for public events.
- Sports pools could not be sold at the common café/bar register area and throughout the café.

This bill leads to small business owners having to re-build divided structures to operate charitable gaming. This bill will significantly harm rural café/bars, veterans and fraternal clubs and local community centers.

Charitable gaming has been vital in keeping small town café/bars alive in rural North Dakota. CGAND urges a Do Not Pass on SB 2373.