

Public Act 17-231 – An Act Concerning Municipalities and Bingo Games, Bazaars and Raffles, goes into effect on **January 1, 2018**.

As of January 1, 2018, each municipality will be responsible for the permitting and enforcement of all bingo games, bazaars and raffles taking place in their town. In addition, each town will be responsible for the post event reporting. The chief of police will be responsible; if there is no chief of police, then the municipality's chief executive officer is responsible.

Please note, the Department of Consumer Protection will retain the responsibility of permitting and enforcement of all equipment, ticket dealers, manufacturers and distributors related to sealed tickets, bingos, bazaars and raffles.

Bingo

Bingo registrations are issued to qualifying non-profit organizations in your municipality. Upon receiving their initial registration, they can apply for any of the following bingo permits:

Weekly (annual permit)

Monthly (annual permit)

Temporary Single Event (only allowed 2 per year)

Senior (organizations consisting of members 60 years and older) (one time permit for each event)

Parent Teacher Organization (annual permit)

Individual PIN Operator registrations are issued to all individuals associated with the qualified non-profit organizations that wish to work at any bingo event. Note that these are for the individuals who run the bingo games, and are separate from the organization's registration.

After each event has been permitted and completed, the non-profit is required to file a financial return **to the municipality**, within 10 days, providing pertinent event information including the gross receipts, prizes awarded and net profit of which a payment of 5% of the net profit will be paid to the municipality.

Bazaar

Bazaar permits are issued to qualifying non-profit organizations wishing to run a bazaar in your town. Bazaar permit application fees are on a per day basis. Examples of bazaar games are 50/50s, tea cup and blower ball games. If total prizes exceed \$7,500, the municipality shall investigate the qualifications of the organization and verify the facts on the application.

After each bazaar has been permitted and completed, a verified statement to include gross receipts, expenses, net profit and prizes awarded is to be filed with the municipality by the organization at the end of the next succeeding month. There is no payment to the municipality in conjunction with the verified statement.

Raffle

Raffle permits are issued to qualifying non-profit organizations wishing to run a raffle in your town. There are various classes of raffle permits which are based on factors such as length of time tickets will be sold and the aggregate value of prizes to be awarded. The application fees differ for each raffle permit type. Examples of raffles are cash prizes, duck race, cow chip. If total prizes exceed \$7,500, the municipality shall investigate the qualifications of the organization and verify the facts on the application.

After each raffle has been permitted and completed, a verified statement to include gross receipts, expenses, net profit and prizes awarded is to be filed with the municipality by the organization at the end of the next succeeding month. There is no payment to the municipality in conjunction with the verified statement.

Items to consider during this transition

- 1) We encourage each municipality to review all forms associated with the permitting of bingos, bazaars and raffles currently in use. They can be found on this Department's website at www.ct.gov/dcp
- 2) We recommend having all organizations currently permitted for bingo, bazaar and raffle permits in your town, be required to file new applications with your town so that you may obtain the pertinent information you need to facilitate this process.
- 3) We will provide some assistance in the creation of forms needed in conjunction with this new responsibility.
- 4) We will continue to issue permits for all requests prior to January 1, 2018.
- 5) We will not be issuing renewal notices for bingo permits for Weekly, Monthly or Parent Teacher Organization that will expire on December 31, 2017. However, we will send communication to those permit holders regarding this transition.
- 6) All individual Bingo PIN Operator registrations approved by this Department do not expire. It is at the discretion of each town as to whether they will require a new application or recognize the State issued registration.

The Department of Consumer Protection will be responsible for the collection of all verified statements or financial reports associated with any permit issued by this Department for temporary bingo, raffle or bazaar prior to January 1, 2018.

Bingo, Bazaar, or Raffle Permit Fees

The tables below show (1) prior law's bingo, bazaar or raffle permit fees, and (2) the maximum amount a municipality may charge for a permit under the act.

Bingo Permit Fees

	<i>Prior Law</i>	<i>Under the Act</i>
Type	Permit Fee	Municipality may charge up to:
Class A	\$75	\$75
Class B	\$5 per day	\$10 per day
Class C	\$50	\$50

Bazaar or Raffle Permit Fees

	<i>Prior Law</i>	<i>Under the Act</i>
Type	Permit Fees	Municipality may charge up to:
Class 1	\$25 to municipality	\$75
Class 2	\$10 to municipality	\$30
Class 3	\$10 per day to municipality	\$60 per day
Class 4	\$5 to municipality Nothing to state	\$15
Class 5	\$40 to municipality	\$120
Class 6	\$50 to municipality	\$150
Class 7	Nothing to municipality	\$300

NOTE: For all permit classes, the act requires municipalities to investigate an applicant's qualifications when the total aggregate value of the prize exceeds \$7,500.