



House Bill 17

Sponsor Testimony – Rep. Jack Cera

Government Accountability and Oversight – RM 114

Chairman Louis W. Blessing III

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reinke, and Ranking Member Clyde - Members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee --- Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on House Bill 17. House Bill 17 is a legislative proposal that helps charitable organizations and Volunteer Fire Departments when it comes to purchasing an instant bingo license for an event.

As you know, many of these organizations sell instants to assist in raising funds to help certain causes in the local community. To sell these instant tickets, they must first purchase a permit. The current permit is an annual permit.

I was approached by a volunteer fire department that only has one or two events per year and wanted a less costly option of a permit that allows them to sell tickets on a limited basis. In their case under current law, the profit from the sale of the tickets either doesn't meet or rarely meets the cost of the current license.

This legislation will provide qualifying organizations the ability to apply for a \$50 license if they are going to conduct instant bingo on five or fewer days per year. Many of these organizations only sell instants two or three times a year, so this permit will operate the same as the standard permits except for the limited fee and days.

The bill contains a provision that will allow instant bingo tickets to be sold at any location owned or leased by the fire department. There is also a provision that gives the organization the ability to change a date of an event should the need arise. (This was not available in current law, and since they have to give notice of the prospective dates up front when applying for the instant bingo license, circumstances may arise that forces a change in the date.)

These charitable organizations, including VFWs and VFDs, do great work in helping our local communities. I ask for your support in allowing them to purchase a cheaper bingo license with a limit of up to 5 days per year.

Thank you for your consideration.