



**Representative Adam Holmes**  
**97<sup>th</sup> House District**

**Representative Jeff LaRe**  
**77<sup>th</sup> House District**

**House Bill 282 Sponsor Testimony**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice-Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 282. House Bill 282 seeks to modernize and bring increased integrity and clarity to Ohio's charitable gaming laws. More specifically, we seek to update the laws to allow an electronic format for instant bingo.

**History**

Charitable bingo was authorized by the Ohio Constitution in 1975. The Attorney General's office regulates charitable gaming and allows organizations including veteran's, fraternal, and 501(c)(3) organizations to conduct these games as long as they are licensed through their office. In 2003, HB 512 further defined instant bingo and allowed these organizations to utilize them.

## **Modernization**

HB 282 seeks to allow charitable organizations the option to offer both paper and electronic formats for instant bingo. This bill does not expand or create new gaming in Ohio. When charitable bingo was first written into law, technology at the time did not allow for instant bingo to be played electronically. Over time, with the advancement in technology, the same traditional paper bingo game can now be played on an electronic device. Several other states have specifically legalized the use of electronic pull tabs for charitable gaming including Kentucky, Virginia, Minnesota, New Hampshire and North Dakota.

HB 282 also further defines “slot machines” to not include electronic instant bingo since they are played and regulated differently.

## **Integrity**

The bill would also address the security and integrity of electronic instant bingo devices. As the regulator of charitable gaming, the Attorney General would be required to adopt rules on ensuring the integrity of the instant bingo devices. Not just any organization would be allowed to provide these devices as they need to be licensed by the Attorney General’s office and in good standing with the IRS. Additionally, we would expect to see more secure use of instant bingo as all sales, prizes, and reports are recorded by the machine’s software and are not handled by

an individual. Overall, we expect these updates to modernize and increase integrity to instant bingo.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 282.

We are happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.