



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Governor to Sign Bingo Bill Sponsored by Sen. Pearce, Handled by Rep. Hoskins

JEFFERSON CITY—Bingo regulations will soon be less stringent in Missouri after the governor signs Sen. David Pearce's (R-Warrensburg) [Senate Bill 940](#), which will take effect Aug. 28. The bill will be signed in a public ceremony in the governor's Capitol office at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 13.

The bill, which was handled in the House by Rep. Denny Hoskins (R-Warrensburg), relaxes bingo regulations in Missouri in an effort to maintain the number of bingo halls in the state—which have decreased significantly in recent years. The major provisions include expanding the hours during which bingo halls can operate, increasing the number of games they are able to hold, and raising the cap on the amount of money they are allowed to spend on advertising.

"This legislation will give the veterans' groups and other volunteer organizations that hold bingo games as part of serving their communities an opportunity to be more productive and compete with riverboat gambling," Sen. Pearce said. "We needed to remove some of the burdensome and unnecessary regulations that prevented money from being invested back to our local communities. I want to thank the governor for signing this important bill, and the many veterans' groups and volunteer organizations who supported these changes."

"I'm excited about the new changes to the bingo laws in Missouri," Rep. Hoskins said. "These changes will mean not-for-profit organizations that sponsor bingo, such as the Elks, American Legion, AmVets and VFW, will be able to raise more money to fund worthwhile local community projects. Some of these great projects include Habitat for Humanity, the Warrensburg Veterans Home, Big Brothers Big Sisters, youth ball teams and Boys/Girls State scholarships. This is a great bill and will have a significant, positive impact on Johnson County!"

Specifically, SB 940 increases the advertising allowance for bingo from 2 percent to 10 percent of the total amount expended from bingo receipts. The legislation also allows a bingo licensee to conduct up to 15 bingo games annually, rather than four, as well as hold games two days per week, rather than one day per week. In addition, SB 940 provides that no bingo games may be operated between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m., an expansion of the current midnight to 10 a.m. limitation. Games may be conducted by approved electronic bingo card monitoring devices, as well.

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Contact: Matt Michelson
(573) 751-2272