

Date of Hearing: July 2, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 860 (Committee on Governmental Organization) – As Introduced March 13, 2025

Policy Committee: Governmental Organization

Vote: 22 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill repeals various obsolete provisions of law regarding remote caller bingo.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Negligible costs to the California Gambling Control Commission (CGCC) and Department of Justice.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, “SB 860 is a simple cleanup bill that deletes various code sections relating to the now obsolete Remote Caller Bingo Program. By repealing these statutes, the CGCC will be able to complete its repeal of the program and provide clarity for nonprofit organizations.”
- 2) **Remote Caller Bingo.** Proposition 9 (1976) authorized charities and non-profit organizations to operate conventional paper bingo games for charitable purposes. However, the onset of legalized tribal gaming and enhancements to the California State Lottery diminished the popularity of bingo as a fundraising mechanism. In attempt to bolster fundraising efforts, SB 1369 (Cedillo), Chapter 748, Statutes of 2008, established the California Remote Caller Bingo Act to allow certain organizations to use audio and video technology to broadcast live bingo games for player participation across multiple facilities owned, leased, or rented by the organization. However, the program struggled to gain traction since its inception, with approximately 30 organizations ever applying for CGCC licensure and even fewer organizations establishing games.

SB 820 (Committee on Governmental Organization, Chapter 353, Statutes of 2013, established a January 1, 2017, sunset date for remote caller bingo. However, SB 820 inadvertently excluded some relevant provisions, which remain in statute. This bill repeals the remaining remote caller bingo statutes.

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