



Texas Lottery Commission



Commissioners:

J. Winston Krause, Chairman

Mark A. Franz • Robert Rivera • Erik C. Saenz

Michael P. Farrell
Director

August 26, 2019

The Honorable Valde Guerra
Hidalgo County
100 E. Cano
Edinburg, TX 78539

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
ON: 8/29/19 BY: 

Dear Mr./Ms. Guerra:

This letter is a follow-up communication to my letter dated July 17, 2019 and serves as a reminder of the deadline imposed by the 86th Legislature's House Bill (HB) 914, as well as providing additional information relating to that bill.

The most immediate matter for your attention is that your local government will only continue to receive a share of the bingo prize fees collected after Jan. 1, 2020 if it meets the requirements set forth in HB 914. Your governing body must:

- (1) approve the continued receipt of the share of bingo prize fee funds by a majority vote;**
- (2) notify the Texas Lottery Commission (TLC) of that decision no later than Nov. 1, 2019; and**
- (3) notify each licensed authorized organization within the county's or municipality's jurisdiction, as applicable, of the continued imposition of the fee.**

If a county or municipality has not voted and notified the Commission by **Nov. 1, 2019**, that county or municipality will forfeit their right to receive prize fees generated by bingo permanently.

I have also enclosed the required vote verification notice (attestation form) to be used to notify TLC of your jurisdiction's status; the *Bingo Prize Fee Funds County/Municipality Governing Body Vote Verification Notice*. It is also located on the Charitable Bingo website at:

https://www.txbingo.org/export/sites/bingo/Documents/prescribed_attestation_form.pdf

(This is the same form that was enclosed in individual responses to local governments.)

Moreover, the Commission is creating an administrative tool that will allow municipalities and counties to generate a custom report on licensed, authorized organizations that conduct bingo occasions in their jurisdictions. This will provide local jurisdictions access to reports that will provide information on playing locations and organizational contact information. We anticipate having this tool available by the end of September.

Until then, you can access a report containing information on organizations conducting bingo in your jurisdiction by using the address below to the Charitable Bingo's website and accessing the Conductor Location/Address report.

https://bsc.txbingo.org/bsp/faces/bspPublicReports.jsf;jsessionid=2faMfxxr-ZtrYgKeaHMd_ZaSIRFa-hLlz7yVX7ZEfs1JX85EegZD!-1709348529.

Please note, the information changes regularly, as we process hundreds of licenses each year. The link provided will allow your organization to access numerous other reports which may be useful.

Another change effective Jan. 1, 2020 impacts the collection and remittance of prize fees. Local governments will no longer receive their bingo prize fee payments from TLC at the end of the fiscal year. After Jan. 1, 2020, licensed organizations conducting bingo in a jurisdiction that has fulfilled all of the requirements of Section 11 of H.B. 914 will remit to that jurisdiction, allocations up to 50% of the prize fees the charitable organizations collect payable on a quarterly basis.

It should also be noted that while precincts may have voted to allow bingo occasions, they are **ineligible** to receive any prize fee allocations.

If you have any questions, email us at bingo.services@lottery.state.tx.us, or if you would like to speak with a Charitable Bingo representative, please call 1-800-BINGO-77 (246-4677), press 1 for English or 2 for Spanish; then press 4 to reach the Bingo Division and press 5 for the Training and Education Department.

Respectfully,



Michael P. Farrell
Director
Charitable Bingo Operations Division

ENCL: *Bingo Prize Fee Funds County/Municipality Governing Body Vote Verification Notice*

**TEXAS LOTTERY COMMISSION – CHARITABLE BINGO DIVISION
BINGO PRIZE FEE FUNDS
COUNTY/MUNICIPALITY GOVERNING BODY VOTE VERIFICATION
NOTICE**

This form serves as the required notice to the Texas Lottery Commission (Commission) that a county or municipality has fulfilled two of the requirements of House Bill 914, 86th Texas Legislature (H.B. 914) that are necessary for that county or municipality to continue to receive a share of bingo prize fees after January 1, 2020. Specifically, Section 11 of H.B. 914 provides:

- “(a) a county or municipality may receive a portion of the prize fee...only if:
- (1) The county or municipality was entitled to receive a portion of a bingo prize fee as of January 1, 2019; and
 - (2) The governing body of the county or municipality:
 - (A) by majority vote of the members of the governing body approves the continued receipt of funds under that section and notifies the Texas Lottery Commission of that decision not later than November 1, 2019; and
 - (B) notifies each licensed authorized organization within the county’s or municipality’s jurisdiction, as applicable, of the continued imposition of the fee.”

Your county/municipality should consult with an attorney if you have any questions about complying with the provisions of H.B. 914.

This form is only an attestation that certain requirements set forth in H.B. 914 have been fulfilled.

Accordingly, the undersigned county or municipal representative hereby swears and affirms that:

- (1) the county or municipality was entitled to receive a share of a bingo prize fee as of January 1, 2019; and
- (2) the governing body of the county or municipality approved the continued receipt of the share of bingo prize fee funds by a majority vote.

Name of County or Municipality

Authorized Signature (Name and Title) Date

**TEXAS LOTTERY COMMISSION – CHARITABLE BINGO DIVISION
BINGO PRIZE FEE FUNDS
COUNTY/MUNICIPALITY GOVERNING BODY VOTE VERIFICATION
NOTICE**

State of Texas

County of _____

This form attesting to the fulfillment of the requirements of H.B. 914 was acknowledged before

me on _____ by _____ as _____ of
(date) (name of representative) (title of representative)

(name of county or municipality)

(Personalized Seal)

Notary Public's Signature



Monica Salinas <monica.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Recent correspondence

1 message

Josephine Ramirez <josephine.ramirez@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us> Mon, Jul 22, 2019 at 3:43 PM
To: bingo.services@lottery.state.tx.us
Cc: valde.guerra@co.hidalgo.tx.us, Monica Badillo <monica.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Mary Cheaney <mary.cheaney@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us>, Victor Garza <victor.garza@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Our office received your correspondence dated July 17, 2019, regarding HB914 and the steps Hidalgo County would have to take to continue to receive a share of bingo prize fees after Jan. 1, 2020. Please direct any future correspondence to my office with a copy to Mr. Valde Guerra, Hidalgo County Executive Officer (copied on this email). In addition, if you have any information you could provide to us which contains a listing of "licensed authorized organizations" within Hidalgo County's jurisdiction, we would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,

Josephine Ramirez Solis

Assistant Criminal District Attorney

Chief - Civil Division

Office of Criminal District Attorney

Hidalgo County, Texas

100 E. Cano

Edinburg, TX 78539

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