

Let me introduce myself. My name is Kirk Rosa, I am the Department of Colorado, Veterans of Foreign Wars gaming manager. I assist all our Posts and Districts, to make sure we are following the State Laws for Nonprofits here in Colorado.

Let me start by saying I, along with some others, are a little bit confused about this bill. We are trying to figure out why, with the current system in place that works and works very well, that members of the Colorado legislature want to change things around. Right now, the Gaming Division is under the Sec of States office. Where does splitting that up into two different Departments, (Dept of Revenue and the Sec of States office) make any sense. Under the current setup, I only have to deal with the gaming division under the Sec of States office with questions concerning various gaming issues including training for members. I have zero (0) issues getting assistance as it is. They are very responsive in answering questions, setting up training etc.

Now, in walks some folks, who really does not have a good handle on this and how things work and decide that they do not like how things are setup, and decide that they want to change things up, move most of the gaming division under the Dept of Revenue, and leave only the licensing part under the Sec of State. So, what this would do, is split the Gaming division up into two parts. Two different Departments that now must learn to talk to each other. Right now, it is all under Sec of State, think of it as a one stop shop.

I sat in on a zoom meeting a few months back with some folks that wants all these changes done, including but not limited to a change that would not allow the gaming division to give only warnings or suspensions, instead would have to give fines immediately with the first incident. I believe this to be completely wrong. Many of our Posts do a great job following the rules. Occasionally there is a hiccup and they forgot to submit a report, or the report was not filled out correctly or a missing form etc. These are simple mistakes that can and do get fixed rather quickly as the folks that review these and more respond rather quickly, and they stay on top of it. Does these simple mistakes require them to be suspended or worse NO, should it be a fine, NO. Instead, we work with the Post Gaming manager to fix the problem.

One of the other issues I heard brought up in this zoom meeting was about removing the Advisory Board. That would be wrong also. Do I think the Advisory Board could be revised? Yes. It should be made up of members that use the system, (i.e. Nonprofits, and some that are very knowledgeable of the State Laws on gaming).

I really believe that trying to make these changes are wrong, they should be left alone and allow a working system to stay in place without splitting it up.

Kirk Rosa
Department of Colorado Games Manager
Department of Colorado Staff Judge Advocate
District Commander Distict 8
Post Commander Conifer VFW Post 12009



United Veterans Coalition of Colorado

5400 E Yale Ave
Denver, CO 80222
www.uvcoc.org

March 25, 2024

Dear House State, Civic, Military & Veteran Affairs Committee members,

I am writing to inform you that the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado (UVC) has a support position on HB24-1326 Bingo-Raffle Licensing Sunset Review, and requests the bill be amended to keep all charitable gaming licensing and regulation authorities in the Secretary of State. As you know, the UVC is an organization of veteran service organizations with numerous local posts or chapters. Many of these posts already hold bingo-raffle licenses and have successfully operated for years under the Secretary of State requirements. Bingo operations – especially in rural posts – provide not just gaming revenues for operations but valuable opportunities for camaraderie, networking and support of our veteran communities. These small veteran organizations see no value added in moving bingo-raffle regulations over to the Department of Revenue.

In addition, the UVC seeks an amendment to re-establish the charitable gaming Advisory Board and increasing the veteran member organization representation to two members.

Thank you for considering these amendments to HB24-1326.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelly Kalkowski".

Michelle "Shelly" Kalkowski
Chair, UVC State Legislative Committee
(970) 430-0632
uvc.state.legislative.org

The UVC, a nonpartisan coalition of veteran service organizations, advocates with one united voice on behalf of Colorado's veterans, currently-serving military and their families. Member organizations include the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Enlisted Association, Military Officer Association, Disabled American Veterans, Marine League, Gold Star Wives, and several additional organizations.

The House State, Civic, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee will conduct the review hearing on the Sunset Report for Bingo-Raffle licensing on Monday April 1, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. LSB A

HB24-1326 Bingo-Raffle Licensing Sunset Review Testimony

1 April 2024 For the Record

James Stanko, Adjutant American Legion Post 44, Steamboat Springs, Co.

Chairman Woodrow and members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans affairs committee.

Good afternoon, my name is James Stanko and I live in Steamboat Springs Co. My American Legion Post has had a Bingo, Pull Tab, Raffle license since the early 1990's. I also have been associated with and help two other American Legion Posts in Northwest Colorado with bingo. For the past two years I have represented the American Legion in Colorado on the State Legislative Committee of the United Veterans Coalition. During the past week I have contacted 24 American Legion Posts across the State concerning HB24-1326. What I have learned is that many of these posts rely on bingo, pull tabs and raffles to maintain their posts, conduct activities and services for veterans and their communities. There is a concern among the posts that if HB24-1326 is passed without amending some of the recommendations of the DORA report it could affect their bingo operations.

It is important that the Bingo/Raffle Advisory Board be retained. In the Secretary of State's January 2024 Bingo & Raffle Newsletter, quote "The Colorado Bingo-Raffle Advisory Board makes recommendations to the Secretary of State's Office in its regulation of the charitable gaming sector. All members of the public are encouraged to attend and contribute to this important dialogue." This advisory board is an important link between groups conducting bingo and the Secretary of State and should be not only be retained, but also given an increased input in gaming regulations.

Also, important, American Legion posts feel that all regulation of charitable gaming should remain with the Secretary of State. Most posts have a good working relationship with staff in the licensing division and feel that by moving regulations to the Department of Revenue could increase the paperwork load of reporting bingo events and make it more difficult to hold bingo raffle events.

The last concern is making the maximum fine for infractions to \$250. American Legion posts make every effort to conform to the rules and regulations and most infractions are minor. The general opinion among posts is that a maximum fine is unfair and not necessarily affordable for minor mistakes.

As the American Legion Representative to the United Veterans Coalition, the American Legion of Colorado will support HB24-1326 if amended to address some of the above concerns.

Thank you for your consideration

James Stanko,

P.O. Box 772797 Steamboat Springs, Co. 80477 Phone: 970-879-3936

The House State, Civic, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee will conduct the review hearing on the Sunset Report for Bingo-Raffle licensing on Monday March 25, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. LSB A

HB24-1326 Bingo-Raffle Licensing Sunset Review Testimony
25 March 2024

James Stanko, Adjutant American Legion Post 44, Steamboat Springs, Co.

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