

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Enrolled**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**Senate Bill 751**

By Senator Barrett

[Passed March 8, 2024; in effect 90 days from  
passage]

1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article  
2 designated §47-21A-1, §47-21A-2, §47-21A-3, §47-21A-4, §47-21A-5, §47-21A-6, §47-  
3 21A-7, §47-21A-8, §47-21A-9, §47-21A-10, §47-21A-11, §47-21A-12, §47-21A-13, §47-  
4 21A-14, §47-21A-15, §47-21A-16, §47-21A-17, §47-21A-18, §47-21A-19, §47-21A-20,  
5 §47-21A-21, §47-21A-22, §47-21A-23, §47-21A-24, §47-21A-25, §47-21A-26, §47-21A-  
6 27, §47-21A-28, and §47-21A-29, all relating to creating online charitable raffles; declaring  
7 the legislative intent to create a practicable way for charitable and public service  
8 organizations to raise funds; defining terms; authorizing certain entities to conduct online  
9 raffles without obtaining a license based upon the value of items raffled and cumulative  
10 annual gross sales; identifying who may hold a license and what system license holders  
11 must use to ensure patrons are located in the State of West Virginia; explaining the  
12 authority of the Tax Commissioner to review and grant licenses; identifying the different  
13 types of licenses available for online raffles; setting licensing fees and creating a special  
14 revenue fund; setting forth the procedure for amending information provided on licenses;  
15 permitting the commissioner to engage in regular and emergency rulemaking; limiting  
16 awards on prizes; limiting compensation payable to an operator of an online raffle; limiting  
17 amount of expenses payable from proceeds of online raffle revenue; requiring  
18 recordkeeping and allowing the commissioner to conduct audits of license holders;  
19 defining the scope of permissible advertising for online raffles; allowing platform providers  
20 to hold certain licenses; setting criminal penalties for the violation of any provision of this  
21 code; requiring license holders to file periodic reports with the commissioner; requiring  
22 license applications to be available for public inspections; prohibiting individuals convicted  
23 of specific crimes from obtaining a license; providing for civil penalties for violations of this  
24 article; and permitting review of civil fines by appeal to the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 21A. ONLINE CHARITABLE RAFFLES.**

**§47-21A-1.**

**Legislative**

**intent.**

1           The Legislature, in recognition of the need for charitable and public service organizations  
2 to have for a practicable way of raising funds by means of the internet, declares its intent to grant  
3 the privilege of holding online raffles to those organizations as provided in this article.

**§47-21A-2. Definitions.**

1           For purposes of this article, unless specified otherwise:

2           "Charitable or public service activity or endeavor" means any bona fide activity or endeavor  
3 which directly benefits a number of people by:

4           (1) Contributing to educational or religious purposes;

5           (2) Relieving them from disease, distress, suffering, constraint, or the effects of poverty;

6           (3) Increasing their comprehension of, and devotion to, the principles upon which this  
7 nation was founded and to the principles of good citizenship;

8           (4) Making them aware of, or educating them about, issues of public concern so long as the  
9 activity or endeavor is not aimed at supporting or participating in the campaign of any candidate for  
10 public office;

11           (5) Lessening the burdens borne by government or voluntarily supporting, augmenting, or  
12 supplementing services which government would normally render to the people;

13           (6) Providing or supporting nonprofit community activities for youth, senior citizens, or the  
14 disabled;

15           (7) Providing or supporting nonprofit cultural or artistic activities; or

16           (8) Providing or supporting any political party executive committee.

17           "Charitable or public service organization" means a bona fide, not-for-profit, tax-exempt,  
18 benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, patriotic, civic, religious, fraternal, or  
19 eleemosynary, incorporated or unincorporated association, or organization; or a volunteer fire  
20 department, rescue unit, or other similar volunteer community service organization or association;  
21 but does not include any nonprofit association or organization, whether incorporated or not, which

22 is organized primarily for the purposes of influencing legislation or supporting or promoting the  
23 campaign of any single candidate for public office.

24 "Commissioner" means the State Tax Commissioner.

25 "Conduct" means to direct the actual holding of an online raffle by activities including, but  
26 not limited to, selling tickets, collecting money, drawing or arranging for the drawing of the winning  
27 numbers or names, announcing the winning numbers or names, posting the winning numbers or  
28 names, verifying winners, and awarding prizes.

29 "Expend net proceeds for charitable or public service purposes" means to devote the net  
30 proceeds of an online raffle occasion or occasions to a qualified recipient organization or as  
31 otherwise provided by this article and approved by the commissioner pursuant to §47-21A-13 of  
32 this code.

33 "Gross proceeds" means all moneys collected or received from the conduct of an online  
34 raffle held by a licensee during a license period.

35 "Licensee" means any charitable or public service organization or association granted an  
36 annual or limited occasion license pursuant to the provisions of this article.

37 "Net proceeds" means all moneys collected or received from the conduct of an online raffle  
38 or online raffles at occasions held by a licensee during a license period after payment of the online  
39 raffle expenses authorized by §47-21A-11, §47-21A-12, and §47-21A-13 of this code.

40 "Person" means any individual, association, society, incorporated or unincorporated  
41 organization, firm, partnership, or other nongovernmental entity or institution.

42 "Patron" means any individual who participates in an online raffle by purchasing an online  
43 raffle ticket other than an individual who is participating in the conduct of the online raffle.

44 "Platform provider" means any third-party entity that contracts by written agreement with a  
45 licensee to host, conduct, or otherwise administer an online raffle by using a software system, web  
46 application, method, or other process for the purpose of conducting online raffles over the Internet.

47 "Qualified recipient organization" means any bona fide, not-for-profit, tax-exempt,

48 incorporated or unincorporated association or organization which is organized exclusively for  
49 charitable or public services activities or endeavors.

50 "Online Raffle" has the same meaning as "raffle" as defined in §47-21-2 of this code but  
51 conducted using a software system, web application, method, or other process for the purpose of  
52 conducting online raffles over the Internet.

53 "Online raffle occasion" or "occasion" means a single online session at which a series of  
54 one or more successive online raffles is conducted by a single licensee.

55 "Tax-exempt association or organization" means an association or organization which is,  
56 and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that is currently in effect  
57 stating that the organization is, exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and  
58 described in subsection 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), 501(c)(19), or 501(d) of the  
59 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; or is exempt from income taxes under subsection  
60 527(a) of that code.

61 "Virtually Present" means live, real-time availability by online or other electronic means and  
62 includes, but is not limited to, audio or video appearance or by an instant, live chat or messaging  
63 program.

**§47-21A-3. Authorizing the conduct of certain online raffles without a license.**

1 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article to the contrary, any charitable or public  
2 service organization which has been in existence in this state for at least one year may conduct  
3 online raffles without compliance with the licensing provisions of this article: *Provided*, That any  
4 prize awarded in any single online raffle in an online raffle occasion may not exceed in \$4,000  
5 value: *Provided, however*, That the cumulative gross proceeds derived from the conduct of online  
6 raffle occasions by the charitable or public service organization may not exceed \$15,000 during  
7 any calendar year: *Provided further*, That the charitable or public service are not subject to the  
8 record keeping provisions of §47-21A-14 of the code but shall maintain a separate accounting for  
9 the operation of online raffles. All records required by this section shall be maintained for at least

10 three calendar years and shall be available for reasonable inspection by the commissioner.

**§47-21A-4. Who may hold online raffles; application for license; licenses not transferable.**

1 (a) Except as provided in §47-21A-3 of this code, only persons who are residents of this  
2 state and who are active members of any charitable or public service organization which has been  
3 in existence in this state for at least two years prior to filing an application for an online raffle  
4 license issued pursuant to §47-21A-5 and §47-21A-6 of the code may hold online raffle occasions  
5 in accordance with the provisions of this article and only during the time it holds a valid license.

6 (b) The charitable or public service organization applies for an online raffle license to the  
7 Tax Commissioner and shall be on a form supplied by him or her. The application shall contain the  
8 information required by §47-21A-8 of the code and any other information which the commissioner  
9 considers necessary. An online raffle may not be held and online raffle tickets may not be sold  
10 pursuant to this article until the online raffle application has been approved by the Tax  
11 Commissioner and the license has been received by the applicant: *Provided*, That an online raffle  
12 occasion may not be held and online raffle tickets may not be sold until a 60-day filing period,  
13 which is that time period between the receipt of that application by the Tax Commissioner and the  
14 first online raffle occasion, has expired: *Provided, however*, That the Tax Commissioner shall send  
15 the applicant its license within five days after the application is approved. If the 60-day filing period  
16 has expired and the application has not been denied and the online raffle license has not been  
17 received by the applicant, the applicant may consider the application approved and begin to sell  
18 tickets for the online raffle or hold the online raffle occasion. The Tax Commissioner shall send the  
19 applicant its license within five days after the expiration of the filing period if the application has not  
20 been otherwise denied.

21 (c) An online raffle license issued pursuant to this article may not be transferred.

**§47-21A-5. Annual license; conditions on holding of online raffles.**

1 (a) A charitable or public service organization or any of its auxiliaries or other organizations  
2 otherwise affiliated with it, may apply for an annual license. Only one license per year in the

3 aggregate may be granted to a charitable or public service organization and all of its auxiliaries or  
4 other associations or organizations otherwise affiliated with it: *Provided*, That for purposes of this  
5 section, the various branches, chapters, or lodges of any national association or organization or  
6 local churches of a nationally organized church are not considered affiliates or auxiliaries of each  
7 other. The commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the  
8 provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, to provide for the manner for determining to which  
9 organization, whether the parent organization, an affiliate, or an auxiliary, the one license allowed  
10 under this section is granted. An annual license is valid for one year from the date of issuance.  
11 Charitable or public service organizations may not hold a joint online raffle occasion under any  
12 annual licenses.

13 (b) A licensee shall utilize geo-location or geo-fencing technology to ensure that online  
14 charitable raffles patrons are located in the state of West Virginia. A licensee shall maintain in the  
15 state of West Virginia its servers used to transmit information for the purposes of patron  
16 participation.

17 (c) The Tax Commissioner shall provide on his or her website a list of every active and  
18 approved licensee to conduct an online raffle occasion. A licensee shall provide a conspicuous  
19 hyperlink on any online raffle ticket that is purchased by a patron to the Tax Commissioner's  
20 website. A licensee shall conspicuously display at its physical location, that was provided on its  
21 application, the approved license to conduct an online raffle.

**§47-21A-6. Limited occasion license; conditions on holding of online raffles.**

1 (a) Two or more charitable or public service organizations may hold a joint online raffle  
2 occasion provided each participating organization has been granted a limited occasion online  
3 raffle license for the jointly held occasion: *Provided*, That a licensee which holds an annual license  
4 may not obtain more than one limited occasion license.

5 (b) A limited occasion license is valid only for the time period specified in the application  
6 and entitles only the licensee to hold two online raffle occasions during the specified time period

7 which may not exceed six months from the date of issuance of the limited occasion license.

8 (c) Subject to the limitations set forth in this section for charitable or public service  
9 organization having an annual license, a charitable or public service organization and all of its  
10 auxiliaries or other associations or organizations otherwise affiliated with it, may be granted only  
11 three limited occasion licenses per year in the aggregate. For purposes of this section the various  
12 branches, chapters, or lodges of any national association or organization or local churches of a  
13 nationally organized church are not considered affiliates or auxiliaries of each other. The  
14 commissioner shall by rulemaking provide the manner for determining to which organization,  
15 whether the parent organization, an affiliate, or an auxiliary, the three licenses allowed under this  
16 section are granted.

17 (d) The Tax Commissioner shall provide a hyperlink on its website that will display a list of  
18 every active and approved licensee to conduct an online raffle occasion. A licensee shall provide  
19 this hyperlink on any online raffle ticket that is purchased by a patron. A licensee shall  
20 conspicuously display at its physical location, that was provided on its application, the approved  
21 license to conduct an online raffle.

**§47-21A-7. License fee and exemption from taxes.**

1 (a) A license fee shall be paid to the Tax Commissioner for annual licenses in the amount of  
2 \$500. A license fee shall be paid to the Tax Commissioner for a limited occasion license in the  
3 amount of \$50. All revenue from the license fees shall be deposited in the special revenue account  
4 established under the authority of §11-9-2a of this code and used to support the investigatory  
5 activities provided for in that section. The license fee imposed by this section is in lieu of all other  
6 license or franchise taxes or fees of this state and a county or municipality or other political  
7 subdivision of this state may not impose a license or franchise tax or fee on any online raffle or  
8 online raffle occasion.

9 (b) The gross proceeds derived from the conduct of an online raffle occasion are exempt  
10 from state and local business and occupation taxes, income taxes, excise taxes, and all special



11 taxes. Any charitable or public service organization conducting an online raffle occasion pursuant  
12 to the provisions of this article is exempt from payment of consumers sales and service taxes, use  
13 taxes, and all other taxes on all purchases for use or consumption in the conduct of an online raffle  
14 occasion and is exempt from collecting consumers sales taxes on any admission fees and sales of  
15 online raffle tickets.

**§47-21A-8. Information required in application.**

1 An application for an online raffle license shall include the following information:

2 (a) The name of the applicant and the name and headquarter's address of any state or  
3 national organization of which the applicant is a local branch or lodge;

4 (b) The address and telephone number of the applicant organization, if any, and if the  
5 applicant organization has no telephone, then the address and telephone number of the person  
6 applying on behalf of the organization shall be supplied;

7 (c) For a limited occasion license, the names and addresses of two or more bona fide  
8 active members of the applicant organization who are charged with overall responsibility for the  
9 applicant's online raffle operations, at least one of whom shall be virtually present and available  
10 when the winning numbers or names are drawn, announced, posted, and verified and present  
11 when the prizes are awarded; and the names and addresses of the highest elected officer of the  
12 licensee and his or her officially appointed designee, one of whom shall be virtually present and  
13 available when the winning numbers or names are drawn, announced, posted, and verified and  
14 present when the prizes are awarded; for an annual license, the names, addresses and telephone  
15 numbers of three or more bona fide active members of the applicant organization who are charged  
16 with overall responsibility for the applicant's online raffle operations, at least one of whom shall be  
17 virtually present and available when the winning numbers or names are drawn, announced,  
18 posted, and verified and present when the prizes are awarded; and the names and addresses and  
19 telephone numbers of the highest elected officer of the licensee and his or her officially appointed  
20 designee, one of whom shall be virtually present and available when the winning numbers and

21 names are drawn, announced, posted, and verified and present when the prizes are awarded;

22 (e) The address and the location of any platform provider that manages a website software  
23 system, web application, method, or process for the purpose of collecting moneys related to the  
24 sale of online raffles, securing and safekeeping all moneys collected related to the sale of online  
25 raffle tickets, disbursing moneys collected from the sale of online raffle tickets to the licensee  
26 before or after the online raffle or online raffle occasion, and conducting licensed online raffles over  
27 the Internet. A copy of all written agreements between the licensee and the platform provider  
28 providing these services shall specifically provide a statement of all costs and fees to be incurred  
29 by the licensee for receiving these services by the platform provider. A copy of any written  
30 agreements shall be provided to the Tax Commissioner;

31 (f) Information required by the commissioner to satisfy him or her that the applicant meets  
32 the requirements of:

33 (1) Being a charitable or public service organization as defined by this article; and

34 (2) Being in existence in this state for at least one year prior to filing an application for an  
35 online raffle license.

36 (g) Designate the date or dates and the time or times when the online raffle occasions will  
37 be held;

38 (h) State whether the applicant has ever had a previous application for any online raffle or  
39 raffle license refused, or whether any previous online raffle license or raffle license has been  
40 revoked or suspended;

41 (i) State the charitable or public service purpose or purposes for which the online raffle  
42 proceeds will be expended;

43 (j) Provide statements to the effect that the individuals specified in subdivision (c) of this  
44 section and the officers of the applicant understand:

45 (1) That it is a violation of this article to allow any persons other than those authorized by  
46 this article to conduct the online raffle;

47 (2) That they are required to file the reports and keep the records as provided by this  
48 article; and

49 (3) That it is a crime to violate the provisions of this article and that a violation of the  
50 provisions may result in suspension or revocation of the online raffle license or other raffle license  
51 and denial of applications for subsequent online raffle licenses or raffle licenses;

52 (k) Provide a sworn statement by an authorized representative of the applicant that the  
53 information contained in the application is true to the best of his or her knowledge;

54 (l) Provide a list and description of estimated expenses to be incurred in connection with  
55 the holding of the online raffle occasions and the name and address of each payee;

56 (m) A list of the names and addresses of all officers and members of the board of directors,  
57 governors or trustees, if any, of the applicant organizations; and

58 (n) Any other necessary and reasonable information which the commissioner may require.

**§47-21A-9. Amendment of license.**

1 If circumstances beyond the control of the licensee prohibit it from holding any online raffle  
2 occasion in accordance with the information provided by it in its license application form, the  
3 licensee may request approval by the commissioner to modify the terms and conditions of its  
4 license.

**§47-21A-10. Licensee rules and regulations.**

1 (a) Each licensee may adopt rules and regulations, not inconsistent with or in violation of  
2 the provisions of this article, or rules promulgated to govern the conduct of online raffle occasions.

3 (b) Any rules and regulations adopted by the licensee shall be made available for  
4 inspection at all raffle occasions held by way of advertising these rules and regulations on its  
5 website and by being posted conspicuously at their place of operation that was provided on its  
6 application for a license. Any adopted rules and regulations are a part of the records required to be  
7 kept by §47-21A-14 of this code.

**§47-21A-11. Limits on prizes awarded; general provisions.**

1 Prizes may be money, real or personal property, or merchandise other than beer, wine,  
2 spirits, or alcoholic liquor as defined in §60-1-5 of this code. If the prizes are real or personal  
3 property or merchandise, the value assigned to them is their fair market value at the time of  
4 acquisition for the online raffle or at the time of purchase.

**§47-21A-12. Compensation.**

1 (a) A licensee may pay a salary, the minimum of which is the federal minimum wage and  
2 the maximum of which is not more than 120 percent of the state minimum wage to operators of  
3 charitable online raffles who are either:

4 (1) Active members of the licensee organization and who have been active members in  
5 good standing for at least two years prior to the date of filing of the application for an online  
6 charitable raffle license or the most recent filing of an application for renewal of the license; or

7 (2) Employees of the licensee organization or its authorized auxiliary organization.

8 (b) If the licensee's gross receipts from online raffle occasions equal or exceed \$100,000  
9 for the licensee's most recently filed annual financial report, a salary may be paid to not more than  
10 eight operators.

11 (c) If the licensee's gross receipts from online charitable raffle occasions are less than  
12 \$100,000, but equal or exceed \$50,000 for the licensee's most recently filed annual financial  
13 report, a salary may be paid to not more than five operators.

14 (d) If the licensee's gross receipts from online charitable raffle occasions are less than  
15 \$50,000 for the licensee's most recently filed annual financial report, a salary may be paid to no  
16 more than three operators.

**§47-21A-13. Payment of reasonable expenses from proceeds; net proceeds disbursement.**

1 (a) The reasonable, necessary and actual expenses incurred in connection with the  
2 conduct of online raffle occasions, not to exceed 40 percent of the gross proceeds collected during  
3 a license period, may be paid out of the gross proceeds of the conduct of the online raffle,  
4 including, but not limited to:

5 (1) Rent paid for the use of any premises: *Provided*, That a copy of the rental agreement  
6 was filed with the online raffle license application with any modifications to the rental agreement to  
7 be filed within 10 days of being made: *Provided, however*, That in no event may the rent paid for  
8 the use of any premises exceed the fair market value of rent for the premises;

9 (2) The cost to the licensee organization for equipment and supplies used to conduct the  
10 online raffle occasion;

11 (3) The cost to the licensee organization for advertising the online raffle occasion;

12 (4) The costs involved in the licensee using technology, Internet service providers, servers,  
13 or other necessary infrastructure by which to advertise and conduct the online raffle or online raffle  
14 occasion;

15 (5) The costs relating to any platform provider that manages a website software system,  
16 web application, method, or process for the purpose of collecting moneys related to the sale of  
17 online raffles, securing and safekeeping all moneys collected related to the sale of online raffle  
18 tickets, disbursing moneys collected from the sale of online raffle tickets to the licensee before or  
19 after the online raffle or online raffle occasion, and conducting licensed online raffles over the  
20 Internet.

21 (b) The actual cost to the licensee for prizes, not to exceed the amounts as specified in  
22 §47-21A-11 of the code, may be paid out of the gross proceeds of the conduct of an online raffle.

23 (c) The licensee shall expend all net online raffle proceeds and any interest earned on the  
24 net online raffle proceeds for the charitable or public service purposes stated in the application  
25 within one year after the expiration of the license under which the online raffle occasions were  
26 conducted. A licensee which does not qualify as a qualified recipient organization may apply to the  
27 commissioner at the time it applies for an online raffle license for permission to apply any or all of  
28 its net proceeds to directly support a charitable or public service activity or endeavor which it  
29 sponsors.

30 (d) Gross proceeds from any online raffle occasion may not be devoted or in any manner

31 used by any licensee or qualified recipient organization for the construction, acquisition, or  
32 improvement, of real or personal property except that which is used exclusively for one or more  
33 charitable or public service purposes or as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

34 (e) The Tax Commissioner may disapprove any contract for sale of goods or services to  
35 any online raffle licensee for use in or with relation to any online raffle operation or occasion, or any  
36 lease of real or tangible personal property to any online raffle licensee for use in or with relation to  
37 any online raffle operation or occasion, if the contract or lease is unreasonable or not  
38 representative of fair market value. Disapproved contracts or leases shall be considered to be in  
39 contravention of this article, and are void. Any attempt by any online raffle licensee to engage in  
40 transactions under the terms of any disapproved lease or contract is grounds for revocation or  
41 suspension of the online raffle license or other charitable raffle license and for refusal by the Tax  
42 Commissioner to renew the online raffle license or raffle license.

43 (f) Any licensee which, in good faith, finds itself unable to comply with the requirements of  
44 subsections (a) through (e) of this section shall apply to the commissioner for permission to  
45 expend its net proceeds for one or more charitable or public service purposes other than that  
46 stated in its license application or for permission to expend its net proceeds later than the one-year  
47 time period specified in this section. The application shall be on a form furnished by the  
48 commissioner and shall include the particulars of the requested changes and the reasons for the  
49 changes. The application shall be filed no later than 60 days before the end of the one-year period  
50 specified in this section. In the case of an application to extend the time in which the net proceeds  
51 are to be expended for a charitable or public service purpose, the licensee shall file periodic  
52 reports with the commissioner as directed until the proceeds are expended.

**§47-21A-14. Records; commissioner audit.**

1 Any licensee which holds an online raffle occasion as provided by this article shall maintain  
2 a separate account and separate bookkeeping procedure for its online raffle operations. All  
3 records required by this article shall be maintained for at least three years and shall be open to the

4 commissioner for reasonable inspection. Whenever the commissioner has reasonable cause to  
5 believe a licensee has violated any of the provisions of this article, he or she may perform or cause  
6 to be performed an audit of the licensee's books and records.

**§47-21A-15. Advertising.**

1 A licensee may advertise its online raffle occasions in a manner reasonably necessary to  
2 promote the occasion.

**§47-21A-16. Annual Platform Provider license; conditions on holding of online raffles.**

1 A platform provider may apply for an annual Platform Provider license: *Provided*, That a  
2 platform provider that has a principal place of business located within this state shall be registered  
3 with the West Virginia Secretary of State and also possess a Business Registration Certificate  
4 from the West Virginia State Tax Department: *Provided, however*, That a platform provider that has  
5 a principal place of business located outside of this state shall be registered as an appropriate  
6 foreign corporation with the West Virginia Secretary of State and also possess a Business  
7 Registration Certificate from the West Virginia State Tax Department.

**§47-21A-17. Annual Platform Provider License fee and exemption from taxes.**

1 A license fee shall be paid to the Tax Commissioner for annual Platform Provider licenses  
2 in the amount of \$500. All revenue from the license fee shall be deposited in the special revenue  
3 account established under the authority of §11-9-2a of this code and used to support the  
4 investigatory activities provided for in that section.

**§47-21A-18. Information required in application for an Annual Platform Provider License.**

1 An application for an Annual Platform Provider license shall include the following  
2 information:

3 (a) The name of the applicant, the legal name of the entity, the jurisdiction and locale of  
4 incorporation, telephone number, e-mail address, and the physical and mailing address of its  
5 principal place of business;

6 (b) A description of methods by which they manage, administer, or oversee a website

7 software system, web application, method, or other process for the purposes of collecting moneys  
8 related to the sale of online raffles, securing and safekeeping all moneys collected related to the  
9 sale of online raffle tickets, disbursing moneys collected from the sale of online raffle tickets to the  
10 licensee before or after the online raffle or online raffle occasion, and conducting licensed online  
11 raffles over the Internet;

12 (c) Provide statements that detail the costs and fee structures for any services that are  
13 provided by the platform provider.

14 (d) State whether the applicant has ever had a previous application for any license relating  
15 to the regulation of an online raffle refused, or whether any previous license relating to the  
16 regulation of an online raffle has been revoked or suspended;

17 (e) Provide statements to the effect that the individuals and entities specified in subdivision  
18 (a) of this section understand:

19 (1) That it is a violation of this article to allow any persons other than those authorized by  
20 this article to conduct business related to being a platform provider;

21 (2) That it is required to file the reports and keep the records as provided by this article; and

22 (3) That it is a crime to violate the provisions of this article and, that a violation of such  
23 provisions may result in suspension or revocation of the platform provider license and denial of  
24 applications for subsequent platform provider licenses;

25 (f) Provide a sworn statement by an authorized representative of the applicant that the  
26 information contained in the application is true to the best of his or her knowledge;

27 (g) A list of the names and addresses of all officers and members of the board of directors,  
28 if any, of the platform provider; and

29 (h) Any other necessary and reasonable information required by the commissioner.

**§47-21A-19. Records; commissioner audit.**

1 Any licensee which holds an Annual Platform Provider License as provided by this article  
2 shall maintain a bookkeeping procedure for all of its activities relating to being a platform provider



3 for any charitable or public service organization conducting online raffles in the state. All records  
4 required by this article shall be maintained for at least three years and shall be open to the  
5 commissioner for reasonable inspection. Whenever the commissioner has reasonable cause to  
6 believe a licensee has violated any of the provisions of this article, he or she may perform or cause  
7 to be performed an audit of the licensee's books and records.

**§47-21A-20. Fraud; penalties.**

1 In addition to any other offense set forth in this code, any person, platform provider, or  
2 licensee that knowingly conducts or participates in a fraudulently or deceptively conducted, or  
3 administered online raffle with intent to defraud is guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof,  
4 shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$10,000, or imprisoned in a correctional facility not  
5 less than one, nor more than five years, or both fined and imprisoned.

**§47-21A-21. Obtaining license fraudulently; penalty.**

1 In addition to any other offense set forth in this code, any person, platform provider, or  
2 licensee that knowingly obtains or assists another person in obtaining an online raffle license or  
3 platform provider license under false, deceptive, or fraudulent pretenses is guilty of a  
4 misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than  
5 \$10,000.

**§47-21A-22. Violation of provisions; crime; civil penalties.**

1 (a) Any person, entity, or platform provider that knowingly violates any provisions of this  
2 article, other than the provisions of §47-21A-20 or §47-21A-21 of this code is guilty of a  
3 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than  
4 \$1,000; and, upon a second or subsequent conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100  
5 nor more than \$100,000 or confined in jail not more than one year, or both fined and confined.

6 (b) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any person, licensed or unlicensed  
7 under this article, who violates any provisions of this article, or who fails to perform any of the  
8 duties or obligations created and imposed upon them by the provisions of this article, other than

9 the provisions of §47-21A-20 or §47-21A-21 of this code is subject to a civil penalty determined by  
10 the Tax Commissioner in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

**§47-21A-23. Administration; rules and regulations.**

1 (a) The commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with the  
2 provisions of §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code, to administer the provisions of this article. The  
3 commissioner may promulgate emergency rules pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-15 of this  
4 code, to administer the provisions of this article.

5 (b) The commissioner shall deny an application for any license or modification thereof if he  
6 or she finds that the issuance thereof would be in violation of the provisions of this article.

7 (c) The commissioner may revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew any license if the licensee  
8 or any member of a licensee organization has been convicted pursuant to §47-21A-20, §47-21A-  
9 21, or §47-21A-22 of this code, and the commissioner finds that it would be in the public interest to  
10 do so; or if the licensee has violated any of the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That before  
11 revoking or suspending any license issued under the authority of this article, the commissioner  
12 shall give at least 10 days' notice to the licensee. The notice shall be in writing, state the reason for  
13 revocation or suspension, and inform the licensee of its right to petition the Office of Tax Appeals  
14 for a hearing at which the licensee may show cause why the license should not be revoked or  
15 suspended. The notice required by this section shall be by personal or substituted service, in  
16 accordance with the West Virginia rules of civil procedure for trial courts of record, on the person  
17 who applied for the license on behalf of the licensee. The licensee may, at the time designated for  
18 the hearing, present evidence in its behalf and be represented by counsel. A decision of the Office  
19 of Tax Appeals upholding in whole or in part the revoking or suspending a license is subject to  
20 judicial review as provided in §11-10A-19 of this code.

21 (d) The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license issued under  
22 this article for a material failure to maintain the records or file the reports required by this article if  
23 the commissioner finds that the failure will substantially impair the commissioner's ability to

24 administer the provisions of this article with regard to the licensee.

25 (e) The provisions of §29A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code apply to the denial, revocation,  
26 suspension of, or refusal to renew any license.

27 (g) The burden of proof in any administrative or court proceeding is on the applicant to  
28 show cause why any license should be issued or renewed and on the licensee to show cause why  
29 any license should not be revoked or suspended.

30 (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the commissioner may issue an  
31 emergency order suspending any license under the following circumstances and in the following  
32 manner:

33 (1) An emergency order may be issued only when the commissioner believes that:

34 (i) There has been a criminal violation of this article;

35 (ii) The action is necessary to prevent a criminal violation of this article; or

36 (iii) The action is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,  
37 safety, morals, good order, or general welfare.

38 (2) The emergency order shall set forth the grounds upon which it is issued, including a  
39 statement of facts constituting the alleged emergency necessitating such action. This order shall  
40 be served by personal or substituted service on the licensee or the person who applied for the  
41 license on behalf of the licensee.

42 (3) The emergency order is effective immediately upon issuance and service upon the  
43 licensee.

44 (4) Within five days after issuance of an emergency order, the licensee may petition the  
45 Office of Tax Appeals to set a time and place for a hearing where the licensee may appear and  
46 show cause why its license should not be revoked.

**§47-21A-24. Filing of reports.**

1 (a) Each licensee holding an annual, limited occasion, or platform provider license shall file  
2 with the commissioner a financial report summarizing its online raffle operations within 30 days

3 after the expiration date of the license. The time period covered by an annual report is the full  
4 license year or, at the election of a licensee receiving state or federal funding, the most recently  
5 ended state or federal fiscal year.

6 (b) The reports required by this section relating to a platform provider license shall  
7 additionally contain the name, address, and telephone number of each charitable organization to  
8 which the platform provider provided services. The report shall also list the specific online raffle  
9 occasions in which platform provider participated, including the date of each online raffle occasion,  
10 any costs and fees associated with these online raffle occasions, and any other information  
11 required by the commissioner.

12 (c) The reports required by this section relating to an annual license or a state fair license  
13 shall additionally contain the name, address, and social security number of any individual who  
14 received during the course of an online raffle occasion prizes the aggregate value of which  
15 exceeded \$100, and other information required by the commissioner: *Provided*, That any licensee  
16 failing to file the report when due is liable for a penalty of \$25 for each month or fraction of a month  
17 during which the failure continues, the penalty not to exceed \$100: *Provided, however*, That  
18 annual financial reports shall contain either a compilation or review of the financial report by a  
19 certified or licensed public accountant, or may be audited by a certified or licensed public  
20 accountant, if a licensee's gross receipts exceed \$50,000.

**§47-21A-25. Filing of copy of license; application open to public inspection.**

1 Whenever any license is granted pursuant to this article, the commissioner shall cause a  
2 copy of the license to be filed and recorded with the clerk of the county commission of the county in  
3 which the licensee's physical operations exist as provided in its application: *Provided*, That a  
4 platform provider license issued to an entity that has a principal place of business outside of the  
5 state shall provide a hyperlink on their website which will be directed towards a viewable version of  
6 the platform provider license. A copy of any application shall be made available for public  
7 inspection in the office of the commissioner.

**§47-21A-26. Prohibited acts by convicted persons.**

1 Any person convicted of any felony, or a misdemeanor for a gambling offense, or of a  
2 violation of any provision of §47-20-1 *et seq.* of this code, is prohibited from directly or indirectly  
3 obtaining an online raffle license, conducting an online raffle occasion, or leasing or providing to a  
4 licensee any premises where online raffle occasions may be overseen or held, within 10 years  
5 from said conviction.

**§47-21A-27. Proceeds of state fair.**

1 The Legislature declares that the net proceeds of any online raffle game which accrue to  
2 the West Virginia state fair are considered used for charitable or public service purposes as  
3 defined in §47-21A-2 of this code. Any proceeds allowed by the state fair board to be paid to or  
4 retained by persons who conduct or oversee online raffle occasions are considered to be  
5 expenses incurred by the state fair board.

**§47-21A-28. State fair online raffle license; rules and regulations.**

1 The West Virginia state fair board may apply annually to the Tax Commissioner for a state  
2 fair online raffle license to provide for the conduct of online raffle occasions. The license shall  
3 permit the state fair board to have one or more persons conduct online raffle occasions who have  
4 conducted online raffle occasions on a regular basis for a least one year prior to the date of the  
5 state fair board's application. The state fair shall pay a license fee of \$500 which shall be paid to  
6 the Tax Commissioner for the state fair online raffle license. The provisions of §47-21A-11, §47-  
7 21A-12, and §47-21A-13 of the code do not apply to a state fair raffle license. A state fair online  
8 raffle license may not be issued unless the application includes a copy of any agreement entered  
9 into between the state fair board and the persons or entities who are to conduct online raffle  
10 occasions. The state fair board may adopt reasonable rules and regulations, not inconsistent with  
11 or in violation of the provisions of this article, to govern the holding of online raffle occasions.

**§47-21A-29. Additional remedies for the commissioner; administrative procedures; deposit  
of money penalties.**

1 (a) Additional remedies. Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, the  
2 commissioner may:

3 (1) Revoke or refuse to renew any license issued under this article for any material  
4 violation of the provisions of this article or legislative rules of the commissioner promulgated under  
5 this article;

6 (2) Suspend the license of any licensee for the period of time the commissioner considers  
7 appropriate, not to be less than one week nor more than 12 months, for any material violation of  
8 the provisions of this article or legislative rule of the commissioner promulgated under this article;

9 (3) Place any licensee on probation for not less than six months nor more than five years:  
10 *Provided*, That if a licensee is placed on probation, as a condition of the probation, the licensee  
11 shall pay to the commissioner a probation supervision fee in an amount equal to two percent of the  
12 gross proceeds derived by the licensee from the conduct of online raffle occasions, or a probation  
13 supervision fee in an amount equal to two percent of the gross proceeds derived by the licensee  
14 from the conduct of providing a platform within the state during the period of the suspension, but, in  
15 no event, may the probation supervision fee be less than \$2,000. All probation supervision fee  
16 revenue shall be placed in a special account and used by the commissioner to offset the expenses  
17 and costs incurred by the Tax Division to supervise the licensee;

18 (4) Require any licensee to replace any officer who knew or should have known of a  
19 material violation of the provisions of this article or legislative rules of the commissioner  
20 promulgated under this article;

21 (5) Require any licensee to prohibit one or more members, supporters, volunteers, or  
22 employees of the licensee involved in acts of material violation of the provisions of this article or  
23 legislative rules of the commissioner promulgated under this article, from all future online raffle  
24 occasions held under the license, or for the period of time specified by the commissioner;

25 (6) Impose a civil money penalty in an amount not less than \$100 nor more than two times  
26 the annual gross proceeds derived by any licensee, for each material violation of the provisions of

27 this article or legislative rules of the commissioner: *Provided*, That in setting any monetary penalty  
28 for a first offense, the commissioner shall take into consideration the ability of the licensee to  
29 continue to exist and operate. For each material violation which is a second or subsequent  
30 offense, the amount of the civil penalty that may be imposed may not be less than \$500 and may  
31 not exceed two times the annual gross proceeds of the licensee. The commissioner may file this  
32 rule as an emergency rule. Any licensee aggrieved by the amount of the civil penalty may  
33 surrender its license, or, after exhausting all administrative remedies, have the matter reviewed in  
34 the West Virginia Intermediate Court of Appeals; or

35 (7) Order any one or more, or any combination, of the penalties provided for in subdivisions  
36 (1) through (6) of this subsection: *Provided*, That no sanctions or other remedy shall be imposed  
37 under this article on a licensee which is exempt or qualified to be exempt from federal income  
38 taxation under subsection 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as  
39 amended, but does not have bona fide members, due to failure to operate online raffle occasions  
40 with members if the occasions are or were operated by residents of this state who have been  
41 employed by the licensee or been meaningfully associated with the licensee for one or more years  
42 before the date of the licensee's application for a license under this article, or its last application for  
43 renewal of a license under this article.

44 (b) *Administrative procedures.*

45 (1) An order issued under this section shall be served by certified mail or in the manner  
46 provided in rule 4(d) of the West Virginia rules of civil procedure for trial courts of record, as  
47 amended.

48 (2) A licensee may appeal an order of the commissioner issued under this section by  
49 petitioning the Office of Tax Appeals within 20 days after the licensee is served with a copy of the  
50 order.

51 (3) When a petition is filed timely, the provisions of §11-10A-1 *et seq.* of this code apply.

52 (4) The burden of proof in any administrative or court proceeding is on the licensee to show

53 cause why the order of the commissioner under this section should be modified, in whole or in part,  
54 or set aside.

55 (c) *Deposit of money penalties.* — All fines, money penalties, and fees imposed pursuant  
56 to this section, except the probation supervision fee imposed by subdivision (3), subsection (a) of  
57 this section, shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund of this state.