

(230 ILCS 15/) Raffles and Poker Runs Act

(230 ILCS 15/8.1)

Sec. 8.1. Political committees.

(a) For the purposes of this Section the terms defined in this subsection have the meanings given them.

"Net Proceeds" means the gross receipts from the conduct of raffles, less reasonable sums expended for prizes, license fees and other reasonable operating expenses incurred as a result of operating a raffle.

"Raffle" means a form of lottery, as defined in Section 28-2 (b) of the Criminal Code of 2012, conducted by a political committee licensed under this Section, in which:

(1) the player pays or agrees to pay something of value for a chance, represented and differentiated by a number or by a combination of numbers or by some other medium, one or more of which chances is to be designated the winning chance;

(2) the winning chance is to be determined through a drawing or by some other method based on an element of chance by an act or set of acts on the part of persons conducting or connected with the lottery, except that the winning chance shall not be determined by the outcome of a publicly exhibited sporting contest.

"Unresolved claim" means a claim for civil penalty under Sections 9-3, 9-10, and 9-23 of The Election Code which has been begun by the State Board of Elections, has been disputed by the political committee under the applicable rules of the State Board of Elections, and has not been finally decided either by the State Board of Elections, or, where application for review has been made to the Courts of Illinois, remains finally undecided by the Courts.

"Owes" means that a political committee has been finally determined under applicable rules of the State Board of Elections to be liable for a civil penalty under Sections 9-3, 9-10, and 9-23 of The Election Code.

(b) Licenses issued pursuant to this Section shall be valid for one raffle or for a specified number of raffles to be conducted during a specified period not to exceed one year and may be suspended or revoked for any violation of this Section. The State Board of Elections shall act on a license application within 30 days from the date of application.

(c) Licenses issued by the State Board of Elections are subject to the following restrictions:

(1) No political committee shall conduct raffles or chances without having first obtained a license therefor pursuant to this Section.

(2) The application for license shall be prepared in accordance with regulations of the State Board of Elections and must specify the area or areas within the State in which raffle chances will be sold or issued, the time period during which raffle chances will be sold or issued, the time of determination of winning chances and the location or locations at which winning chances will be determined.

(3) A license authorizes the licensee to conduct raffles as defined in this Section. The following are ineligible for any license under this Section:

(i) any political committee which has an officer who has been convicted of a felony;

(ii) any political committee which has an officer who is or has been a professional gambler or gambling promoter;

(iii) any political committee which has an officer who is not of good moral character;

(iv) any political committee which has an officer who is also an officer of a firm or corporation in which a person defined in (i), (ii) or (iii) has a proprietary, equitable or credit interest, or in which such a person is active or employed;

(v) any political committee in which a person defined in (i), (ii) or (iii) is an officer, director, or employee, whether compensated or not;

(vi) any political committee in which a person defined in (i), (ii) or (iii) is to participate in the management or operation of a raffle as defined in this Section;

(vii) any committee which, at the time of its application for a license to conduct a raffle, owes the State Board of Elections any unpaid civil penalty authorized by Sections 9-3, 9-10, and 9-23 of The Election Code, or is the subject of an unresolved claim for a civil penalty under Sections 9-3, 9-10, and 9-23 of The Election Code;

(viii) any political committee which, at the time of its application to conduct a raffle, has not submitted any report or document required to be filed by Article 9 of The Election Code and such report or document is more than 10 days overdue.

(d) (1) The conducting of raffles is subject to the following restrictions:

(i) The entire net proceeds of any raffle must be exclusively devoted to the lawful purposes of the political committee permitted to conduct that game.

(ii) No person except a bona fide member of the political committee may participate in the management or operation of the raffle.

(iii) No person may receive any remuneration or profit for participating in the management or operation of the raffle.

(iv) Raffle chances may be sold or issued only within the area specified on the license and winning chances may be determined only at those locations specified on the license.

(v) A person under the age of 18 years may participate in the conducting of raffles or chances only with the permission of a parent or guardian. A person under the age of 18 years may be within the area where winning chances are being determined only when accompanied by his parent or guardian.

(2) If a lessor rents premises where a winning chance or chances on a raffle are determined, the lessor shall not be criminally liable if the person who uses the premises for the determining of winning chances does not hold a license issued under the provisions of this Section.

(e) (1) Each political committee licensed to conduct raffles and chances shall keep records of its gross receipts, expenses and net proceeds for each single gathering or occasion at which winning chances are determined. All deductions from gross receipts for each single gathering or occasion shall be documented with receipts or other records indicating the amount, a description of the purchased item or service or other reason for the deduction, and the recipient. The distribution of net proceeds shall be itemized as to payee, purpose, amount and date of payment.

(2) Each political committee licensed to conduct raffles shall report on the next report due to be filed under Article 9 of The Election Code its gross receipts, expenses and net proceeds from raffles, and the distribution of net proceeds itemized as required in this subsection. Such reports shall be included in the regular reports required of political committees by Article 9 of The Election Code.

(3) Records required by this subsection shall be preserved for 3 years, and political committees shall make available their records relating to operation of raffles for public inspection at reasonable times and places.

(f) Violation of any provision of this Section is a Class C misdemeanor.

(g) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to authorize the conducting or operating of any gambling scheme, enterprise, activity or device other than raffles as provided for herein.

(Source: P.A. 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13; 98-756, eff. 7-16-14.)

Section 210.10 Licensing of Raffles Conducted by Political Committees

- a) No raffle or other game of chance defined in and authorized by Section 8.1 of the Raffles Act [230 ILCS 15/8.1] (the Act) shall be conducted unless a license has first been issued for such a purpose by the State Board of Elections (Board).
- b) "Political committee" as used in this Part shall mean a political committee as defined by Section 9-1.8 of the Election Code [10 ILCS 5/9-1.8].
- c) No political committee, group, association, or other entity shall receive a license to conduct a raffle unless it is a political committee as defined by this Part and Section 9-1.8 of the Election Code, and unless it meets all requirements of Section 8.1 of the Act.
- d) Application for a license to conduct a raffle shall be made on forms provided by the Board and shall supply, over the oath of the applicant, all information requested by the application form. The form of the application is set out in Appendix A.
- e) Only the chairman or treasurer of a political committee whose name is listed on the committee's D-1 statement at the time the application is filed shall sign the application for a license to conduct a raffle.
- f) An officer of a political committee or an employee or person not otherwise disqualified by the Act itself shall be deemed to be of good moral character if he or she has never been convicted of an offense identified in Article 29 of the Election Code; provided that if an officer, employee or person has been convicted of such an offense he or she may nonetheless be deemed of good moral character if at least one year has elapsed between the completion of any sentence, including a sentence of probation, imposed upon such conviction and the date the application is sent to the Board as noted upon the application itself.
- g) The information supplied by the applicant, over his or her oath, if it is complete as to each and every item of the application for which an answer is required, shall be deemed to be presumptively correct and sufficient for the Board to issue a license to the applicant to conduct a raffle.
- h) Any person who has grounds to believe a committee has violated the terms of the Act or of its license may file a complaint before the State Board of Elections to determine whether a license holder remains in compliance with the terms of its license. The Board shall hear such a complaint under the provisions of 26 Ill. Adm. Code 125.Subpart C. The complainant shall prove its case before the Board. Nothing in this Part prohibits the Board from filing a complaint, but unless it does so, the Board shall not act as an advocate for the complainant. Failure of a committee to abide by the Act and its license voids the license whether or not a complaint is filed.
- i) All receipts and/or expenditures for raffles conducted under this Section and the Act shall be reported on the report next required to be submitted by the committee after each separate raffle under Article 9 of the Election Code and on such other reports as may be required by that Article.

(Source: Amended at 35 Ill. Reg. 2407, effective February 4, 2011)