

From: Lewis Jerry <globalc@ak.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 2:46:37 PM
To: Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 386

Representative Fields.

Thank you for the time,

I am Jerry Lewis an operator in the state, I run Northern Lights Bingo and Rippie World and I contract with over 50 charities across the state. I have been in gaming all of my professional career in Alaska, Colorado and Nevada and I have seen all sorts of versions of gaming, and Alaska's charitable gaming model is the best I have ever seen.

I understand that you are putting together HB386, to help move along SB170. SB170 has several issues and as such, most operators in the state can not support the current bill. If these items were addressed you could gain the support of the block that generates over 50% of the gaming revenue in the state.

I want to one to be assured that this bill if passed, will completely change charitable gaming in Alaska.

Alaska is the only place in the world that Pull-Tab stores exist. Being run by nonprofits and operators alike. Also Alaska is the only place that has operators contracting with nonprofits to run bingo halls and pull-tab stores. Most other states have volunteers running bingo sporadically.

I am sure you have heard that SB170 mimics the Minnesota bill and how well Minnesota is doing with e-tabs. Let me assure you this is not accurate.

Because no other State runs charitable gaming the way Alaska does, the bill is written to heavily favors locations selling alcohol because that is how every other state sell pull-tabs. In Alaska, in 2024 locations selling alcohol only generated 10% of net proceeds paid to charities. While Operators generate over 50% of net proceeds paid to charities.

If we are going to reference the Minnesota model, then let's be clear about what that actually is:

Minnesota limits the number of tablets allowed in establishments serving alcohol to 6. SB170's limit is 10 per location.

- Minnesota also limits the amount a location serving alcohol can retain to no more than 15% of the profit of a game. SB170 proposes a limit of 25%. This is a significant difference. We must be very careful here, especially in situations where operators and permittees rent space within a bar to conduct gaming. Any restriction should clearly apply to the establishment itself.

- Additionally, Minnesota limits what a manufacturer can charge for a game to 25%, including any tax. SB170 sets that limit at 35% and does not include the 3% tax. Currently we are paying about 20% for paper games. Paper games have a significantly higher cost to produce than electronic games and it has a continual fixed cost where e-tabs do not. I am not sure why you would pay more for e-tabs than paper.

I have heard that we have to pass this bill because paper cost is out of control. Everyone knows that the demand for paper is down. Paper prices are steady, and in today's market that is saying something.

The way the bill is currently written it would certainly lead to the end of pull-tab stores and many bingo halls, thereby reducing the opportunity for charities to be funded and devastating charitable gaming as we know it. Everyone says that the amount spent on charitable gaming will double with e-tabs. But what they don't say is that unless it does double charities will not even break even.

The bill would be easier to support if it actually did mimic the Minnesota model, but it doesn't for these reasons I cannot support the current bill, and I urge everyone on this committee to tread carefully, this bill will change the charitable gaming industry in Alaska and Alaska currently has the gold standard for charitable gaming in the United States.

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From: Sandra Powers <sandy.bigvalleybingo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 10:28 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB 386
Attachments: cidB1B9C12A-F185-4FE3-B8B6-B000A78FFF5E.pdf

Dear Representatives of the Labor & Commerce Committee

My husband and I are both Gaming Operators. I own Big Valley Bingo in Wasilla and my husband owns Tudor Bingo Center in Anchorage. We believe the high costs and high payout percentage are problematic for Gaming Operators and Charities.

The 16 Alaska Charitable Gaming Operators raise 50% of all proceeds to Alaskan Charities. If HB 386 passes as it's currently written, Gaming Operators will likely lose businesses and negatively impact all of our Charities.

HB 386 is currently written with payouts limited to 90%. I have included a 92% because the E-Tab "Auto-Close" feature raises the percentage to 92% because of unsold tickets in a game. E-Tab pull tab sales would have to more than double for Charities to receive the same amount of gaming proceeds.

HB 386 was written based on the Minnesota E-Tabs model. Minnesota currently caps the cost at 25%. HB 386 caps the cost at 35%. Current paper pull tab costs in Alaska are 18% to 23% for Alaska Municipalities and 20% to 25% in the rural areas. The rural areas do not have as much bargaining powers that the municipalities have and they will end up paying the maximum costs. The cost does get below paper at 90% and 92% because the ideal net is so much lower, but the charities proceeds are also so much less. Another reason to change the payout percentage to 85% is E-Tabs will more closely mimic paper pull-tabs and hopefully keep paper pull-tab sales strong.

HB 386 has a lot of good changes and updates and modernization of Charitable Gaming. I have included the chart below to illustrate the decreased amount of proceeds that the Charities will receive.

We want HB 386 has to work for all charities and Alaska Charitable Gaming types.

Thank you,
Sandy Powers
Big Valley Bingo
907-242-8840
John Powers
Tudor Bingo Center

Frank Bickford
Bickford Pacific Group
Lobbyist, State & Local
Grassroots, Media Relations

BASED ON A \$1.00 PULL TAB	80 % PAPER TABS	85% E-TABS	90% E-TABS	92% ETABS
DOLLARS SPENT	\$17,250.00	\$17,250.00	\$17,250.00	\$17,250.00
PRIZES PAID	\$ 13,800.00	\$ 14,662.50	\$ 15,525.00	\$ 15,870.00
NET	\$ 3,450.00	\$ 2,587.50	\$ 1,725.00	\$ 1,380.00
WAGER EXCISE TAX - 3%	\$ 103.50	\$ 77.63	\$ 51.75	\$ 41.40
IDEAL NET	\$ 3,346.50	\$ 2,509.88	\$ 1,673.25	\$ 1,338.60
30% MINIMUM TO CHARITIES	\$ 1,003.95	\$ 752.96	\$ 501.98	\$ 401.58
NET AVAILABLE TO PAY EXPENSES	\$ 2,343.00	\$ 1,757.00	\$ 1,171.00	\$ 937.00
PAPER 20% COST OF GAMES	\$ 502.00			
E-TABS 25% COST OF GAMES		\$ 627.47	\$ 418.31	\$ 334.65
E-TABS 31% COST OF GAMES		\$ 778.06	\$ 518.71	\$ 414.97
E-TABS 35% COST OF GAMES		\$ 878.46	\$ 585.64	\$ 468.51
AMOUNT LEFT AFTER COST OF GAMES FOR EXPENSES (WAGES, BENEFITS, RENT, UTILITIES, ETC) (35%)	\$ 1,841.00	\$ 878.54	\$ 585.36	\$ 468.49