

By Mr. Doyle of Boston (by request), petition of John J. Devlin and another for legislation to permit cities and towns to license certain games of chance. Local Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Nine.

AN ACT TO PERMIT CITIES AND TOWNS TO LICENSE CERTAIN GAMES OF CHANCE.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provisions of general or  
2 special law to the contrary, any city or town may within such  
3 municipality and except when otherwise prohibited herein issue  
4 a license to bona fide organizations or associations of veterans  
5 of any war in which the United States has been engaged,  
6 churches, or religious congregations and religious organizations,  
7 charitable, educational and fraternal organizations to hold and  
8 operate the specific kind of game or games of chance commonly  
9 known as a raffle or raffles played by drawing for prizes or the  
10 allotment of prizes by chance, by the selling of shares or of  
11 tickets or rights to participate in such game or games and by  
12 conducting the game or games accordingly, when the entire net  
13 proceeds of such games of chance are to be devoted to educa-  
14 tional, charitable, patriotic, religious or public-spirited uses, and  
15 for any such organization or association, church, congregation,  
16 or society, when so licensed or without any license when and as  
17 hereinafter prescribed to hold, operate and conduct such games  
18 of chance by its active members, pursuant to this act and such  
19 license, in such municipality and to sell shares or tickets or rights  
20 to participate in such game or games of chance therein and in  
21 any other municipality which shall have adopted this act and  
22 under such conditions and regulations for the supervision and  
23 conduct thereof as shall be prescribed by rules and regulations

24 duly adopted from time to time by the commonwealth of Massa-  
25 chusetts not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, but  
26 only when the entire net proceeds thereof are devoted to the  
27 uses aforesaid and for any such person or persons to participate  
28 in and play such games of chance conducted under any such  
29 license.

30 No license shall be required for the holding, operating, or con-  
31 ducting of a raffle for a door prize of donated merchandise of the  
32 value of less than fifty dollars for which no extra charge is made  
33 at an assemblage at which no other game of chance is held, op-  
34 erated or conducted, if the proceeds of such assemblage are de-  
35 voted to the uses described in this act.

1 SECTION 2. Any of the aforesaid organizations and associa-  
2 tions must first apply and obtain the written certification and  
3 permission of the attorney general of the commonwealth and  
4 the chief of police of the city or town where the organization or  
5 association intends to hold and operate the aforesaid games.  
6 The attorney general of the commonwealth and the chief of  
7 police of the city or town must certify in writing that they are  
8 satisfied that it appears that the organization or association is  
9 a proper applicant to hold and operate these games within the  
10 provisions of this act.

11 Any person who holds or operates one of these games without  
12 complying with the provisions of this act or holds or operates  
13 these games in violation of the provisions of this act will be sub-  
14 ject to up to one year in jail or a fine up to one thousand dollars  
15 or both.