

1982 WL 189155 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

January 29, 1982

*1 The Honorable John C. Land, III
Post Office Box 142
Suite 501
Gressette Office Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Land:

Mr. McLeod has forwarded your opinion request to me for response. You have asked for an opinion as to whether the game of bingo may be advertised in the newspapers. It would appear that under certain circumstances it may.

[Article 17, § 7 of the South Carolina Constitution](#) provides:

No lottery shall ever be allowed or be advertised by newspapers, or otherwise, or its tickets be sold in this State. The game of bingo, when conducted by charitable, religious or fraternal organizations exempt from federal income taxation or when conducted at recognized annual State and county fairs, shall not be deemed a lottery prohibited by this section.

Thus, while lotteries cannot be advertised in newspapers, the game of bingo when conducted by certain organizations is not considered a lottery. Furthermore, the game of bingo must be conducted in a manner specified by [Sections 52-17-10, et seq., Code of Laws of South Carolina \(1976\)](#), as amended. Bingo games conducted in a manner not otherwise authorized by law are considered lotteries and are illegal. Section 52-17-50.

Therefore, it is the opinion of this Office that the game of bingo when conducted by certain charitable, religious or fraternal organizations or certain state or county fairs and when conducted in manner permitted by law, may be advertised by a newspaper.

Sincerely,

Scott Elliott
Assistant Attorney General

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