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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 396**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 12, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-340.28:2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to charitable gaming; Texas*
5 *Hold'em poker tournaments.*

6 Patron—Krizek

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 18.2-340.28:2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 18.2-340.28:2. Conduct of Texas Hold'em poker tournaments by qualified organizations; limitation of operator fee; conditions.**11 A. Any organization qualified to conduct bingo games on or after July 1, 2019, may conduct Texas
12 Hold'em poker tournaments; however, no such organization may conduct individual Texas Hold'em poker
13 games. The Commissioner shall promulgate regulations establishing circumstances under which
14 organizations qualified to conduct bingo games prior to July 1, 2019, may conduct Texas Hold'em poker
15 tournaments.16 B. A qualified organization may contract with an operator to administer Texas Hold'em poker
17 tournaments. Limitations on operator fees shall be established by Department regulations.18 C. A qualified organization shall accept only cash or, at its option, checks in payment of any charges or
19 assessments for players to participate in Texas Hold'em poker tournaments. However, no such organization
20 shall accept postdated checks in payment of any charges or assessments for players to participate in Texas
21 Hold'em poker tournaments.22 D. No qualified organization or any person on the premises shall extend lines of credit or accept any credit
23 or debit card or other electronic fund transfer in payment of any charges or assessments for players to participate in Texas Hold'em poker tournaments.24 E. No qualified organization shall allow any individual younger than 18 years of age to participate in
25 Texas Hold'em poker tournaments.26 F. *No qualified organization may conduct Texas Hold'em poker tournaments (i) at a location outside of
27 the county, city, or town in which its principal office, as registered with the State Corporation Commission, is
28 located or in an adjoining county, city, or town or (ii) at an establishment that has been granted a license
29 pursuant to Chapter 2 (§ 4.1-200 et seq.) of Title 4.1 unless such license is held by the qualified organization.*30 G. *For purposes of this subsection:*31 "Add-ons" means an optional purchase of additional poker chips, usually available once per tournament
32 at the end of the rebuy period or during a specific break, allowing players to boost their stack regardless of
33 their current chip count.34 "Rebuy" means an optional purchase during a specific period and under certain conditions of additional
35 poker chips equivalent to the same amount of chips as provided with the original tournament entry fee.36 Unlimited rebuys shall only be permitted within the first two hours of tournament play or until the first
37 break, whichever occurs first. A rebuy shall only be allowed if a player has lost all of his poker chips or when
38 a player's total amount of poker chips is less than his starting stack. Rebuys shall be equivalent to the amount
39 of poker chips provided with the original tournament entry fee.40 One add-on shall be permitted at the end of the rebuy period before play resumes at the end of the first
41 break. Only players that still have poker chips in play after the first break shall be eligible to purchase an
42 add-on. Players shall be limited to the purchase of one add-on per player per tournament.

INTRODUCED

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