

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

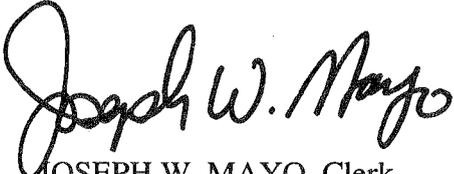
No. 205

H.P. 163

House of Representatives, January 16, 1997

An Act to Exempt Family Entertainment Centers from Gambling Prohibitions.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative VIGUE of Winslow.
Cosponsored by Senator DAGGETT of Kennebec and
Representatives: GAGNON of Waterville, HATCH of Skowhegan, MERES of Norridgewock,
RINES of Wiscasset, SHANNON of Lewiston, TRUE of Fryeburg.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §952, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:**

6 3-A. "Family entertainment center" means a place of
8 business that has at least 30 games or devices designed and
10 manufactured only for bona fide amusement purposes on premises
12 operated for the entertainment of the general public as a bona
14 fide entertainment facility and in which not more than half of
16 the total games or machines are redemption poker machines or
18 redemption slot machines.

20 **Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §952, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499,**
22 **§1, is amended to read:**

24 **4. "Gambling."** A person engages in gambling if he the
26 person stakes or risks something of value upon the outcome of a
28 contest of chance or a future contingent event not under his the
30 person's control or influence, upon an agreement or understanding
32 that he the person or someone else will receive something of
34 value in the event of a certain outcome. Gambling does not
36 include bona fide business transactions valid under the law of
38 contracts, including but not limited to contracts for the
40 purchase or sale at a future date of securities or commodities,
42 and agreements to compensate for loss caused by the happening of
44 chance, including but not limited to contracts of indemnity or
46 guaranty and life, health or accident insurance. "Gambling" does
48 not include bona fide amusement devices designed and manufactured
for the entertainment of the general public in a family
entertainment center in which not more than half of the total
games or machines are redemption poker or redemption slot
machines.

34 **Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §952, sub-§§9-A is enacted to read:**

36 9-A. "Redemption poker machine" or "redemption slot
38 machine" means any device or equipment that operates by means of
40 the insertion of a coin or token and that may entitle the person
42 playing or operating the game or machine the opportunity to
44 receive points or coupons that may be exchanged for merchandise
46 only, excluding cash and alcoholic beverages, as long as the
48 value for such points or coupons does not exceed 2 1/2 cents for
each point on the game or machine.

46 **Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §954, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:**

48 1-A. Unlawful gambling does not include the offering,
playing or operating of redemption poker machines or redemption
slot machines in a family entertainment center.

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SUMMARY

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6 This bill explicitly authorizes family amusement centers to
8 have up to half of the games and amusement devices located in
10 such a facility be redemption poker machines or redemption slot
12 machines, which may entitle the person playing or operating the
 game or machine to receive points or coupons that may be
 exchanged for merchandise only, excluding cash and alcoholic
 beverages. The value of the points or coupons received may not
 exceed 2 1/2 cents for each point on the game or machine.