

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 846

S.P. 249

In Senate, March 3, 2011

An Act To Assist Nonprofit Corporations Harmed by a Casino

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

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PATRICK of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative PETERSON of Rumford and
Senator: JACKSON of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§2-C** is enacted to read:

3 **2-C. Distribution from casino of gaming revenue.** In addition to the amounts
4 distributed under subsections 2-A and 2-B, a casino operator shall collect and distribute
5 2% of all revenue derived from gaming activities conducted by the operator to the Casino
6 Remedial Fund as established in section 1037.

7 **Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §1037** is enacted to read:

8 **§1037. Casino Remedial Fund**

9 **1. Fund established.** The Casino Remedial Fund, referred to in this section as "the
10 fund," is established.

11 **2. Sources of funds.** The fund may accept funds from appropriations, allocations,
12 bond proceeds, donations and funds derived from casino gaming revenues under section
13 1036, subsection 2-C.

14 **3. Purpose.** The fund shall disburse a grant to a qualifying nonprofit corporation, as
15 defined in Title 13-B, section 102, subsection 9. A qualifying nonprofit corporation under
16 this subsection is a nonprofit corporation that makes a showing under criteria developed
17 by the board that it has been financially harmed by the operation of a casino licensed
18 under this chapter located within 35 miles of the nonprofit corporation.

19 **4. Administration.** The board shall administer the fund. The board shall by rule
20 adopt criteria for issuing grants from the fund to carry out the purposes of the fund under
21 subsection 3, including the application process, recipient qualifications and the terms and
22 conditions under which financial harm must be shown and the amounts to be granted
23 from the fund. The expenses of administering the fund must be paid by proceeds of the
24 fund.

25 **5. Nonlapsing.** Any funds remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year do not
26 lapse but carry forward to the next fiscal year. The board may invest proceeds of the fund
27 in an interest-bearing account. If the funds in the fund exceed \$2,000,000 at the end of a
28 fiscal year, the excess over \$2,000,000 must be transferred to the General Fund.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill establishes the Casino Remedial Fund, and requires a casino to distribute 2%
31 of its gaming revenues to be placed in the Casino Remedial Fund. Funds in the fund will
32 be disbursed to a nonprofit corporation within 35 miles of a casino that can show it has
33 been financially harmed by the casino operations.