

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2046

H. P. 1631

House of Representatives, June 21, 1973

Pursuant to House Order (H. P. 1591).

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Authorizing Licensing of Certain Games of Chance.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 17, § 301-A, additional. Title 17 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 301-A to read as follows:

§ 301-A. —nonprofit agricultural societies; charitable organizations

Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, the Chief of State Police may issue a license to conduct games of chance as authorized by section 1803 on the grounds of and during the annual fair of any nonprofit agricultural society, or to any bona fide charitable, educational, fraternal, patriotic or religious organization wishing to conduct games of chance.

Subject to the application provisions of section 302, a license may be issued to operate games of chance to any nonprofit agricultural society or to a bona fide charitable, educational, fraternal, patriotic or religious organization which was in existence at least 5 years prior to its application for a license, when sponsored, operated and conducted for the exclusive benefit of such society or organization by duly authorized members thereof.

Such license shall be only for the operation of one game of chance, which shall be identified in the application and on the face of the license. If the organization wishing to conduct more than one game of chance, a separate license shall be required for each such game operated.

The fee for any license issued under this section shall be \$2 and shall be paid to the Treasurer of State to be credited to the General Fund. No such licenses shall be assignable or transferable.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 17, § 303, amended. The first sentence of section 303 of Title 17 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 102 of the public laws of 1973, is further amended to read as follows:

The Chief of the State Police may issue licenses to operate ~~such amusement~~ **“Beano” or “Bingo” games** on a monthly basis to any volunteer fire department or any fair association or bona fide charitable, educational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or veterans organization which was in existence at least 2 years prior to its application for a license, when sponsored, operated and conducted for the exclusive benefit of such organization by duly authorized members thereof.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 17, § 303-A, amended. The first sentence of section 303-A of Title 17 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 2 of chapter 8 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

Notwithstanding section 303, the Chief of the State Police may issue seasonal licenses to operate ~~such amusement~~ **“Beano” or “Bingo” games** in bona fide resort hotels, provided ~~it is~~ **they are** operated and conducted therein by the management without profit and solely for the entertainment of guests of the hotel registered therein, and provided that charges, if any, to the guests for participation in such entertainment shall be limited to a maximum of \$2 in any 24-hour period.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 17, § 306, amended. Section 306 of Title 17 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

§ 306. Effect of other laws

All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith shall be inoperative as to this chapter and the share of the state stipend for aid and encouragement to agricultural societies shall not be withheld from any such society because of the conducting on the fair grounds of the game of **“Beano” or “Bingo” or games of chance as authorized by section 1803.**

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 17, § 1803, amended. The 2nd paragraph of section 1803 of Title 17 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 265 of the public laws of 1973, is amended to read as follows:

This section shall not apply to games of chance where the amount gambled at any one time is 25¢ or under and where conducted on the grounds of and during the annual fair of any nonprofit agricultural society eligible for the state stipend under Title 7, section 62 ~~or when conducted by any nonprofit organization~~ or where conducted by any bona fide charitable, educational, fraternal, patriotic or religious organization.

Any person, association or corporation desiring to conduct such games of chance shall be required to obtain a license therefor as provided in Title 17, chapter 13.

Sec. 6. Effective date. This Act shall become effective 91 days after the adjournment of the Legislature.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this Act is to clarify the provisions of chapter 265 of the public laws of 1973.