

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 708

H. P. 573

House of Representatives, February 19, 1975

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Berry of Madison.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Playing Card Games for Prizes.

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

Sec. 1. 17 MRSA § 339, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 735, § 3, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 339. Fees.

1. Original application fee. The original application to operate a game of chance shall be accompanied by a fee of \$5. This shall not be a fee for a license and shall not be refundable.

2. Operation of games of chance. Except as provided in subsections 3 and 4, the fee for a license to operate a game of chance shall be \$5 for each week computed on a Monday to Sunday basis, or portion thereof. Such license may be issued for a calendar month for a fee of \$20.

Any combination of monthly or weekly licenses may be issued. Except as provided in subsection 4, licenses to conduct any authorized game of chance, including a raffle, may be issued for a period not to exceed 6 months on one application.

3. Raffles. The fee for a license to conduct a raffle shall be \$5. Only one license will be required in the event the licensed organization conducts more than one raffle on the date and at the place specified in the application. All other provisions of this section shall apply to each individual raffle so conducted.

4. Games of cards. The fee for a license issued to an organization to operate a game of cards, when such organization charges no more than \$1

daily entry fee for participation in such game of cards and when no money or valuable thing other than the \$1 daily entry fee is gambled by any person in connection with such game of cards, shall be \$5 for each calendar year or portion thereof.

5. Distributors. The fee for a license issued to a distributor shall be \$500 for each calendar year or portion thereof.

6. Printers. The fee for a license issued to a printer shall be \$10 for each calendar year or portion thereof.

7. Applications. Licenses to operate any authorized game of chance may be issued for a period not to exceed 6 months on one application.

All fees required by this section shall accompany the application for any license which may be issued by authority of this chapter.

Fees submitted as license fees shall be refunded if the license is not issued. Rebates shall not be given for any unused license or portion thereof. If any license is suspended or revoked as provided by this chapter, fees paid for licenses issued shall not be refunded.

Sec. 2. 17 MRSA § 341, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 735, § 3, is amended to read:

§ 341. Limits on games of chance

A licensed game of chance shall be limited as to the amount to be gambled for any one chance to 25¢, except that a raffle chance may not exceed the amount of \$1 and an organization may operate and conduct a game of cards and charge no more than \$1 daily entry fee for participation in such game of cards provided that no money or valuable thing other than the \$1 daily entry fee is gambled in connection with such game of cards.

STATEMENT OF FACT

At present, each time an organization such as a grange or senior citizens group sponsors a card party of whist, 63 and so forth, where a small prize is awarded to the winner, a \$5 license fee is needed. This bill would exempt such activities from the license requirements needed for a game of chance and establish a \$5 yearly fee for such a function.