

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 625

H. P. 508

House of Representatives, February 16, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Laffin of Westbrook.

Cosponsor: Mr. J. Reeves of Newport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Amend the Laws Relating to Beano or Bingo.

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

Sec. 1. 17 MRSA § 311, sub-§ 1, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 307, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. **Beano.** "Beano" shall mean a specific kind of group game of chance, regardless of whether such a game is characterized by another name. Wherever the term "beano" is used, the word "bingo" or any other word used to characterize such a game may be interchanged. In "beano," each participant is given or sold one or more tally cards, so-called, each of which contains numbers or letters and may or may not be arranged in vertical or horizontal rows. The participant covers the numbers or letters as objects similarly numbered or lettered are drawn from a receptacle, and the game is won by the person who first covers a previously designated arrangement of numbers or letters on the tally card.

Sec. 2. 17 MRSA § 314, as amended by PL 1977, c. 696, § 365, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 314. Issuance of license; fees

The Chief of the State Police may issue licenses to operate "beano" or "bingo" games on a monthly basis to any volunteer fire department or any agricultural fair association or bona fide nonprofit charitable, educational, political, civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or veteran's 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 the organization by duly authorized members thereof. The 2 years' limitation shall not apply to any chartered posts of veteran's organizations, nationally established, even though the posts have not been in existence for 2 years prior to their application for a license; and provided that a license may be issued to an agricultural fair association when sponsored, operated and conducted for the benefit of the agricultural fair association.

The fee for the license shall be \$5 for each calendar week, or portion thereof, that the amusement is to be operated, or the license may be issued for a calendar month for a fee of \$20. All license fees shall be paid to the Treasurer of State to be credited to the General Fund. No licenses shall be assignable or transferable. Nothing contained herein is to be construed to prohibit any volunteer fire department or any agricultural fair association or bona fide nonprofit charitable, educational, political, civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or veteran's organization from obtaining licenses for a period not to exceed 6 months on one application. Not more than one license shall be issued to any one organization for any one period.

All fees required by this chapter shall accompany the application for a license. Fees submitted as license fees shall be refunded if the license is not issued. Fees shall not be refunded for unused licenses or for any license which is suspended or revoked as provided by this chapter.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of the change in the definition of "beano" is to include all other games of a similar nature.

The purpose of the change in the fee section is to raise the present \$2 charge to \$5 for each calendar week as to all organizations which are eligible for a license.