

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1522

H.P. 1049

House of Representatives, April 12, 1991.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

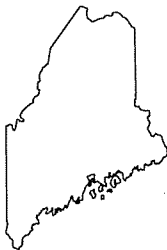
Presented by Representative JALBERT of Lisbon.

Cosponsored by Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach and Representative GREENLAW of Standish.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act Concerning Beano or Bingo.



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

2
4 Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §311, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1979, c. 272, is amended to read:

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

30 A. "Beano" may also mean a game whereby a participant may
32 win by not having any of the numbers or letters called.
34 This game may be known as "hard-luck" or "stand-up" beano.

36 B. For purposes of this chapter, a blank tally card to be
38 filled in by an individual beano participant with the
40 participant's choice of numbers is deemed to be a beano game
42 as defined by this section.

44 C. For purposes of this chapter, prizes may be awarded to
46 the persons sitting to the left or right of a beano game
48 winner as a so-called "good neighbor" game.

50 D. For purposes of this chapter, any predetermined number
52 or letter, or both, may be announced prior to the start of
54 any one game. Such a number or letter may be used by the
56 caller in determining the winning configuration of a game.

58 Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §312, 2nd ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL
60 1985, c. 449, §1, is amended to read:

62 "Beano" or "Bingo" shall may not be conducted on Christmas.
64 "Beano" or "Bingo" may be played on Sunday after the hour of 12
66 noon 11 a.m. No "Beano" or "Bingo" games may be conducted
68 between the hours of 12 midnight and 7 a.m. The prevailing time
70 for the State of Maine shall must be used to determine these
72 hours.

74 Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §314-A, sub-§§3 and 4, as enacted by PL 1987,
76 c. 197, §§3 and 7, are amended to read:

78 3. Eighteen weekends per year. An organization licensed
80 under this section may operate high-stakes beano games on only 18

2 nonconsecutive weekends per year. High-stakes beano games may
not be held on more than 9 weekends during the 6-month license
4 period. For the purposes of this section, a weekend consists of
Saturday and the immediately following Sunday. The license shall
6 must specify which weekends the high-stakes beano games will be
operated. Notwithstanding this restriction, the Penobscot Nation
8 may operate beano games for no more than 36 weekends per year.
During the months of April through October, high-stakes beano
games may be operated on consecutive weekends.

10 A. A high-stakes beano game licensed under this section may
12 reschedule a beano session that has been cancelled due to
inclement weather.

14 4. **Term of license; fees.** A license issued under this
16 section is valid for a period of 6 months. The annual license
fee for a high-stakes beano license is ~~5% of gross revenues~~
18 \$50,000. The fee is payable in monthly installments based ~~on 5%~~
~~of the gross revenues of the previous month.~~ All license fees
20 shall must be paid to the Treasurer of State to be credited to
the General Fund.

22 **Sec. 4. 17 MRSA §317, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1975, c. 307,
24 §2, is amended to read:

26 3. **Advertising; solicitation and enticement.** Advertising
which that is obscene, solicitation on a public way of persons to
28 participate in "beano," or charging admission ~~or awarding prizes~~
~~for attendance.~~

30 **Sec. 5. 17 MRSA §324, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 1987, c. 679,
32 §2, is further amended to read:

34 3. **Lucky seven.** Lucky seven or similar sealed tickets may
be sold when that game of chance is licensed by the Chief of the
36 State Police and when a valid license certificate is properly
displayed. Notwithstanding this section and section 312, Lucky
38 seven games may be conducted during the period of 2 hours before
and 2 hours after any "Beano" game and also may be conducted
40 during ~~the intermission of~~ any "Beano" game.

42 A. Notwithstanding any rule, lucky seven or other similar
44 sealed tickets may be sold that have a sale value of \$1 or
less.

46 **Sec. 6. PL 1987, c. 197, §7** is repealed.

2 STATEMENT OF FACT

4 This bill authorizes popular variations on the game of beano
not currently allowed under the statutes and rules adopted by the
6 Chief of the State Police.

8 The bill authorizes beano licensees to conduct high-stakes
games beginning one hour earlier on Sundays.

10 The bill provides for expanded sessions of high-stakes beano
12 games from 18 to 36 weekends per year for the Penobscot Nation.
It also provides for consecutive weekend games in the time period
14 from April to October, so that the warmer weather and the tourist
season may be utilized to increase attendance at the games.

16 The bill also authorizes rescheduling of high-stake beano
18 games cancelled due to inclement weather.

20 The bill changes the license fee for high-stakes beano from
5% of gross revenues to \$50,000 annually.

22 The bill provides for the sale of lucky seven or other
24 similar sealed tickets during the conduct of the game session and
also allows for the sale of such tickets with a sale value of \$1
26 or less.

28 The sunset clause of the original high-stakes beano games is
repealed.