

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 205

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H.P. 163

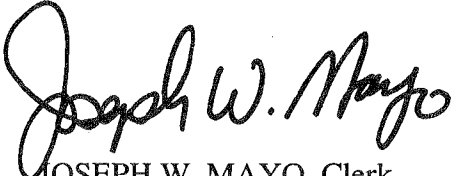
House of Representatives, January 16, 1997

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**An Act to Exempt Family Entertainment Centers from Gambling Prohibitions.**

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative VIGUE of Winslow.  
Cosponsored by Senator DAGGETT of Kennebec and  
Representatives: GAGNON of Waterville, HATCH of Skowhegan, MERES of Norridgewock,  
RINES of Wiscasset, SHANNON of Lewiston, TRUE of Fryeburg.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §952, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:**

6 3-A. "Family entertainment center" means a place of  
8 business that has at least 30 games or devices designed and  
10 manufactured only for bona fide amusement purposes on premises  
12 operated for the entertainment of the general public as a bona  
14 fide entertainment facility and in which not more than half of  
16 the total games or machines are redemption poker machines or  
18 redemption slot machines.

20 **Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §952, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499,**  
22 **§1, is amended to read:**

24 **4. "Gambling."** A person engages in gambling if he the  
26 person stakes or risks something of value upon the outcome of a  
28 contest of chance or a future contingent event not under his the  
30 person's control or influence, upon an agreement or understanding  
32 that he the person or someone else will receive something of  
34 value in the event of a certain outcome. Gambling does not  
36 include bona fide business transactions valid under the law of  
38 contracts, including but not limited to contracts for the  
40 purchase or sale at a future date of securities or commodities,  
42 and agreements to compensate for loss caused by the happening of  
44 chance, including but not limited to contracts of indemnity or  
46 guaranty and life, health or accident insurance. "Gambling" does  
48 not include bona fide amusement devices designed and manufactured  
for the entertainment of the general public in a family  
entertainment center in which not more than half of the total  
games or machines are redemption poker or redemption slot  
machines.

34 **Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §952, sub-§§9-A is enacted to read:**

36 9-A. "Redemption poker machine" or "redemption slot  
38 machine" means any device or equipment that operates by means of  
40 the insertion of a coin or token and that may entitle the person  
42 playing or operating the game or machine the opportunity to  
44 receive points or coupons that may be exchanged for merchandise  
46 only, excluding cash and alcoholic beverages, as long as the  
48 value for such points or coupons does not exceed 2 1/2 cents for  
each point on the game or machine.

46 **Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §954, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:**

48 1-A. Unlawful gambling does not include the offering,  
playing or operating of redemption poker machines or redemption  
slot machines in a family entertainment center.

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## SUMMARY

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6           This bill explicitly authorizes family amusement centers to  
8           have up to half of the games and amusement devices located in  
10           such a facility be redemption poker machines or redemption slot  
12           machines, which may entitle the person playing or operating the  
          game or machine to receive points or coupons that may be  
          exchanged for merchandise only, excluding cash and alcoholic  
          beverages. The value of the points or coupons received may not  
          exceed 2 1/2 cents for each point on the game or machine.