

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 915

H.P. 690

House of Representatives, March 1, 2007

### An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Bingo

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative EDGECOMB of Caribou.  
Cosponsored by Senator SCHNEIDER of Penobscot and  
Representatives: AYOTTE of Caswell, LANSLEY of Sabattus, McFADDEN of Dennysville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §314-B, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 197, §4, is amended  
3 to read:

4 **2. Prizes.** Notwithstanding the prize limits in section 317, an organization operating  
5 a winner-take-all round under this section shall pay all proceeds from each winner-take-  
6 all round as prizes, ~~provided~~ except no winner ~~receives~~ may receive more than \$500  
7 \$750.

8 **Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §317, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 74, §2, is further  
9 amended to read:

10 The Chief of the State Police has the power to adopt rules, not inconsistent with law,  
11 that are necessary for the administration and enforcement of this chapter and for the  
12 licensing, conduct and operation of the amusement commonly known as "Beano" or  
13 "Bingo" and for the permitting and operation of commercial beano halls. The Chief of  
14 the State Police has the power and authority to regulate, supervise and exercise general  
15 control over the operation of such amusement and commercial beano halls, including, but  
16 not limited to, the payment of prizes and the use of equipment. ~~Any~~ A rule adopted by the  
17 Chief of the State Police concerning the value of prizes that may be awarded must include  
18 a provision that no single prize may exceed \$400 in value and that no more than ~~\$1,400~~  
19 \$2,000 in total prizes may be awarded on any one occasion. In establishing ~~such~~  
20 such rules, which are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~H-A~~ 2-A,  
21 the Chief of the State Police ~~must~~ shall, in addition to the standards set forth in other  
22 provisions of this chapter, use the following standards setting forth conduct, conditions  
23 and activity considered undesirable:

24 **Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §326, sub-§1-A**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 45, §3, is amended  
25 to read:

26 **1-A. Payment of proceeds.** An organization licensed to operate beano or bingo and  
27 Lucky 7 games in conjunction with beano or bingo may use the proceeds or part of the  
28 proceeds to:

29 A. Pay salaries, wages or remuneration to any person directly involved in operating  
30 beano, bingo or Lucky 7 games;

31 B. Defray the expenses or part of the expenses that further the purpose for which  
32 the organization is formed except that proceeds may not be:

33 (1) Used to purchase alcohol or to defray the cost of activities where alcohol is  
34 served; or

35 (2) Paid directly to organization members except as specifically allowed in this  
36 subsection; ~~and~~

37 C. Defray the expenses or part of the expenses of a member, auxiliary member,  
38 officer or employee of the organization for a serious illness, injury or casualty loss if  
39 the licensee makes an application and the application is approved by the licensing  
40 division within the Bureau of State Police.

1 (1) An application must be made in the form and contain the information the  
2 licensing division requires.

3 (a) In the case of serious illness or injury, the licensing division may require  
4 certification by a licensed physician setting out the facts in support of the  
5 application.

6 (b) In the case of a casualty loss, the licensing division may require  
7 statements or reports from a law enforcement agency, rescue or other  
8 emergency services personnel or an insurance agency to support the  
9 application.

10 (c) The licensing division may deny an application if it appears that the  
11 person who would receive the proceeds has adequate means of financial  
12 support, including, but not limited to, insurance or workers' compensation  
13 benefits; and

14 D. Defray the expense of advertising.

15 **Sec. 4. 17 MRSA §335, sub-§2-A**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 45, §7, is amended  
16 to read:

17 **2-A. Exceptions.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, a licensee may pay or use the  
18 proceeds of a game of chance to:

19 A. Defray the expenses or part of the expenses that further the purpose for which  
20 the organization is formed, except that the proceeds may not be:

21 (1) Used to purchase alcohol or to defray the cost of activities where alcohol is  
22 served; or

23 (2) Paid directly to organization members except as specifically allowed in this  
24 section; ~~and~~

25 B. Defray the expenses or part of the expenses of a member, auxiliary member,  
26 officer or employee of the organization for a serious illness, injury or casualty loss if  
27 the licensee makes an application pursuant to this section and the application is  
28 approved by the licensing division within the Bureau of State Police.

29 (1) An application must be made in the form and contain the information the  
30 licensing division requires.

31 (a) In the case of serious illness or injury, the licensing division may require  
32 certification by a licensed physician in support of the application.

33 (b) In the case of a casualty loss, the licensing division may require  
34 statements or reports from a law enforcement agency, rescue or other  
35 emergency services personnel or an insurance agency to support the  
36 application.

37 (c) The licensing division may deny an application if it appears that the  
38 person who would receive the proceeds has adequate means of financial  
39 support, including, but not limited to, insurance or workers' compensation  
40 benefits; and

1        C. Defray the expense of advertising.

2                                **SUMMARY**

3        This bill increases the stakes in a winner-take-all round of bingo from \$500 to \$750.  
4        The bill also increases the value of a single prize in a game of bingo from \$1,400 to  
5        \$2,000. The bill also allows an organization licensed to operate beano or bingo games to  
6        use part of the proceeds to defray the expense of advertising.