

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1397

S.P. 485

March 14, 2007

**An Act To Allow Nonprofit Organizations and Indian Tribes To
Sponsor Texas Hold 'Em Tournaments**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MITCHELL of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative CROCKETT of Augusta and Senator: MARRACHÉ of
Kennebec, Representative: SILSBY of Augusta.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §332, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

3 7. Texas hold ‘em poker. The Chief of the State Police may issue a license to
4 conduct a Texas hold ‘em poker tournament under this subsection to an eligible
5 organization under subsection 1 or to a federally recognized Indian tribe licensed for
6 high-stakes beano under section 314-A, subsection 1. The number of tables for a Texas
7 hold ‘em tournament is limited to the capacity of the licensee’s facility in which the
8 tournament is held, and each table in the tournament is limited to no more than 10
9 players. A licensee may keep 25% of a fee from a participant under this subsection and
10 75% of the fee must be paid as prizes to the winners of the tournament. Of the 25%
11 retained by the licensee after the payment of prizes, 75% must be distributed to the Maine
12 State Grant Program established in Title 20-A, chapter 419-A. A participant in a
13 tournament under this subsection must be at least 18 years of age. A prize awarded by a
14 tournament licensed under this subsection must be posted in clear view in the licensee’s
15 facility in which the tournament is held at least 2 hours before the start of the tournament.
16 Other requirements of a Texas hold ‘em tournament licensed under this subsection
17 include:

18 A. A licensee may not hold more than 3 tournaments in a week and the time for a
19 tournament may not last more than 4 1/2 hours. A participant of a tournament under
20 this paragraph must pay an entrance fee of \$50;

21 B. A licensee may hold a super Texas hold ‘em tournament once a month in which a
22 participant must pay an entrance fee of \$75. A separate permit from the Chief of the
23 State Police is required for a tournament under this paragraph. A tournament under
24 this paragraph may not last more than 6 1/2 hours;

25 C. A licensee may hold a giant Texas hold ‘em tournament twice a calendar year in
26 which a participant must pay an entrance fee of \$100. A separate permit from the
27 Chief of the State Police is required for a tournament under this paragraph. A
28 tournament under this paragraph must last until all but 10 participants are eliminated
29 from the tournament, at which time the tournament may not last more than 30
30 minutes; and

31 D. A tournament licensed under this subsection may include a sub-tournament for
32 eliminated players. A subtournament under this paragraph must begin within 2 hours
33 from the start time of the original tournament and may last no longer than 2 hours. A
34 fee for a participant of a subtournament under this subsection may not exceed 50% of
35 the cost of the original tournament.

36

SUMMARY

37 This bill allows nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes to hold
38 Texas hold ‘em poker tournaments in which the licensee may keep up to 25% of the
39 entrance fee and 75% of the fee must go to prizes for winners of the tournament. Of the
40 remaining fee after the prizes are paid, 75% must go to the Maine State Grant Program.
41 A licensee may hold no more than 3 tournaments a week with an entrance fee of \$50,

1 may hold a super tournament once a month with an entrance fee of \$75 and a giant
2 tournament twice a year with an entrance fee of \$100. The bill allows any tournament to
3 conduct a subtournament of eliminated participants that must start within 2 hours of the
4 original tournament. The entrance fee may not exceed 50% of the fee for the original
5 tournament.