

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1723

H.P. 1206

House of Representatives, March 23, 2007

An Act To Streamline the Beano Laws

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRYANT of Windham.
Cosponsored by Senator BRYANT of Oxford and
Representative: PLUMMER of Windham, Senator: DIAMOND of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §314, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 684, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 The fee for such a license to any nonprofit organization is ~~\$12.00~~ \$12 for each
5 calendar week, or portion thereof, that the amusement is to be operated, or the license
6 may be issued for a calendar month for a fee of ~~\$36.00~~ \$36 or a calendar year for a fee of
7 \$400. A special per-game license may be issued to any qualified nonprofit organization
8 for the purposes of operating a game of "beano" or "bingo" for a fee of ~~\$5.00~~ \$5. The
9 special per-game license may not be issued more than 6 times to any one organization in
10 a calendar year. All license fees must be paid to the Treasurer of State to be credited to
11 the General Fund. A license is not assignable or transferable. Nothing contained in this
12 section may be construed to prohibit any volunteer fire department or any agricultural fair
13 association or bona fide nonprofit charitable, educational, political, civic, recreational,
14 fraternal, patriotic, religious, veterans' organization or auxiliary of any of them from
15 obtaining licenses for a period not to exceed 6 months on one application. No more than
16 one license may be issued to any organization for any one period. ~~No more than one~~ A
17 licensee may not operate or conduct ~~a~~ more than one game of "beano" or "bingo" on the
18 same premises on the same date.

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

21 The Chief of the State Police has the power to adopt rules, not inconsistent with law,
22 that are necessary for the administration and enforcement of this chapter and for the
23 licensing, conduct and operation of the amusement commonly known as "Beano" or
24 "Bingo" and for the permitting and operation of commercial beano halls. The Chief of
25 the State Police has the power and authority to regulate, supervise and exercise general
26 control over the operation of such amusement and commercial beano halls, including, but
27 not limited to, the payment of prizes and the use of equipment. Any rule adopted by the
28 Chief of the State Police concerning the value of prizes that may be awarded must include
29 a provision that no single prize may exceed ~~\$400~~ \$500 in value and that no more than
30 \$1,400 in total prizes may be awarded on any one occasion. In establishing such rules,
31 which are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~H-A~~ 2-A,
32 the Chief of the State Police must, in addition to the standards set forth in other
33 provisions of this chapter, use the following standards setting forth conduct, conditions
34 and activity considered undesirable:

35 **Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §324-A, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. I, §10 and
36 affected by Pt. X, §2, is amended to read:

37 **2. Games of chance before "beano."** A person may not conduct a lottery or other
38 game of chance during the period of one hour before the conduct of any "beano" game at
39 the specific location of the "beano" game, except that the following lotteries may be
40 conducted during the period of ~~one hour~~ 2 hours before the conduct of "beano" games.

1 A. Lottery tickets issued by the State Liquor and Lottery Commission may be sold
2 when a valid license certificate issued by the commission is properly displayed.

3 B. Raffle tickets may be sold in accordance with chapter 14.

4 C. Lucky seven or similar sealed tickets may be sold when that game of chance is
5 licensed by the Chief of the State Police and when a valid license certificate is
6 properly displayed. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section and section
7 312, lucky seven games may be conducted during the period beginning 2 hours
8 before and ending 2 hours after a "beano" game.

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

11 **Sec. 4. 17 MRSA §329, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 353, §1, is amended to
12 read:

13 A person conducting or assisting in the conduct of beano may assist a player by
14 playing that player's cards while the player takes a restroom, smoking or refreshment
15 break. This section does not apply to the conduct of high-stakes beano.

16 **Sec. 5. Rules.** By July, 1, 2007, the Chief of the State Police shall amend the rules
17 of the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, Chapter 3, which are routine
18 technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, pertaining to the conduct
19 of beano. The amended rules must provide:

20 1. That seats for a beano game may be reserved for parties of 10 or more players;

21 2. That a player may purchase a fixed number of beano cards at the beginning of the
22 game to be randomly generated by the computer and distributed to the player during the
23 course of the beano game;

24 3. That a small fee may be charged for the use of an electronic dauber for playing
25 beano;

26 4. That a licensee may electronically change the games on the beano dauber;

27 5. That the cost per beano card may be determined based on the retail value of
28 individual games; and

29 6. That a licensee may charge a fee for exchanging electronic daubers or previously
30 purchased but unplayed beano cards.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill amends current law to allow different organizations to conduct beano games
33 at the same location on the same day and extends the time at the beginning of beano
34 games when games of chance may be sold. This bill also allows beano workers to assist
35 players by marking their beano cards when the players have to leave their seats. It
36 increases the prize limit on individual games to \$500. Finally, this bill directs the Chief
37 of the State Police to make certain changes to the rules pertaining to the conduct of beano

- 1 games, including permitting the licensee to reserve seats at a beano game for parties of 10
- 2 or more and to charge a fee for the use of electronic beano daubers.