

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

No. 2206

S.P. 849

February 11, 2008

An Act To Improve the Operation of "Texas Hold 'Em" Tournaments

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SCHNEIDER of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative PATRICK of Rumford and
Senator: MARRACHÉ of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §331, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1975, c. 740, §5, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. License required.** ~~No~~ Except as provided in subsection 2-C, no person, firm,
5 corporation, association or organization ~~shall~~ may hold, conduct or operate a game of
6 chance within the State unless a license therefor is obtained from the Chief of the State
7 Police, or the game of chance constitutes "social gambling" as that term is defined by
8 Title 17-A, section 952, subsection 8.

9 **Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §331, sub-§2-C** is enacted to read:

10 **2-C. "Texas hold 'em" poker tournaments; certain nonprofit organizations.**
11 Notwithstanding the licensing requirements set forth in this chapter, a bona fide nonprofit
12 charitable, educational, political, civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or
13 veterans' organization is authorized to hold a maximum of 6 "Texas hold 'em" poker
14 tournaments annually without obtaining a license from the Chief of the State Police if:

15 A. The nonprofit organization has been in existence and founded, chartered or
16 organized in the State for at least 7 years; and

17 B. The nonprofit organization owns, rents or leases a building or facility in which to
18 hold the "Texas hold 'em" poker tournaments.

19 A nonprofit organization that hold a "Texas hold 'em" poker tournament pursuant to this
20 subsection must notify the Chief of the State Police of that organization's intention to hold
21 the tournament at least 24 hours in advance of the tournament.

22 For purposes of this subsection, "Texas Hold 'em" means a card game in which each
23 player may use any combination from 5 cards dealt face-up on the card table and the
24 player's own 2 cards to make a 5-card poker hand. The Chief of the State Police may
25 adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are
26 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill provides that a bona fide nonprofit charitable, educational, political, civic,
29 recreational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or veterans' organization is authorized to hold a
30 maximum of 6 "Texas hold 'em" poker tournaments annually without obtaining a license
31 from the Chief of the State Police if the organization possesses a building or facility in
32 which to hold the tournaments and has been in existence and founded, chartered or
33 organized in the State for at least 7 years.