

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1597,
L.D. 2236, Bill, "An Act To Clarify the Laws on Licensing for Charitable and Fraternal
Organizations and Games of Chance"

Amend the amendment by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting the
following:

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

1. License required. No A person, firm, corporation, association or organization
shall may not hold, conduct or operate a game of chance within the State unless a license
therefor is obtained from the Chief of the State Police, or the except that organizations
may conduct or operate games of chance without a license when the total amount of
money collected in entry fees, chances or wagers for any one event is less than \$10,000
and the organization has collected no more than \$30,000 in entry fees, chances or wagers
in a calendar year. A game of chance that constitutes "social gambling" as that term is
defined by Title 17-A, section 952, subsection 8 does not require a license or notification
as required by this subsection. An organization wanting to conduct a game of chance that
does not require a license and is within the limits described in this subsection shall notify
the Chief of the State Police no less than 5 business days prior to conducting the game of
chance and provide the name and tax identification number of the organization
conducting the game and the time, date and location of the event and shall submit a \$30
registration fee.

Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §332, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2005, c. 563, §14, is further
amended to read:

1. Organizations eligible. Notwithstanding any other provisions provision of law,
and in accordance with section 331, subsection 1, the Chief of the State Police may issue
a license to operate a game of chance to an agricultural society eligible for a stipend
under Title 7, chapter 4, or to a bona fide nonprofit charitable, educational, political,
civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic or religious organization, or to a volunteer fire
department or to an auxiliary of any of these organizations, any of which must be
founded, chartered or organized in this State for a period of not less than 2 consecutive
years before applying for a license.

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SUMMARY

2 This amendment provides that organizations may conduct games of chance without a
3 license unless they collect more than \$30,000 in entry fees, chances or wagers in a
4 calendar year. An unlicensed game of chance would be limited to \$10,000 in entry fees,
5 chances or wagers at any one event. An organization conducting a game of chance
6 without a license must still register its name and tax identification number and the time,
7 date and location of the event. The registration fee is \$30.

8 **SPONSORED BY:** 

9 (Representative FITTS)

10 **TOWN: Pittsfield**

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2236

LR 3393(05)

An Act To Clarify the Laws on Licensing for Charitable and Fraternal Organizations and Games of Chance

Fiscal Note for House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A"

Sponsor: Rep. Fitts of Pittsfield

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium revenue decrease - General Fund

Potential current biennium revenue decrease - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

It is assumed that 135 of the 326 organizations that are currently licensed will no longer need to be licensed since they do not exceed the \$30,000 in entry fees in any given year. Currently, these organizations pay a license fee of \$15 per week, \$60 per month, or \$700 per calendar year. Under this amendment, these organizations would pay a \$30 registration fee per event. It is difficult to predict how these organizations will plan their events under this legislation. It is assumed that there will be a decrease in Other Special Revenue Funds revenue which cannot be accurately quantified. In addition, to the extent this legislation applies to the Texas Hold 'Em games of chance, there could be a decrease in General Fund revenue.