

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 121

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H.P. 103

House of Representatives, January 29, 2013

**An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Operation of  
Tournament Games by Charitable Organizations**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative WILSON of Augusta. (BY REQUEST)

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1836, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

3 **2-A. Members and nonmembers may conduct tournament games.**  
4 Notwithstanding section 1835, subsection 2, an organization licensed to conduct a  
5 tournament game may permit persons who are not members of the organization to  
6 conduct a tournament game on behalf of the organization. An organization licensed to  
7 conduct a tournament game may compensate nonmembers who conduct the tournament  
8 game in an amount not to exceed 20% of the total revenue from entry fees received for  
9 the tournament game. At least one member of the organization licensed to conduct a  
10 tournament game must be present at all times when the tournament game is being  
11 conducted.

12 **Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §1836, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 325, §4, is further  
13 amended to read:

14 **4. Tournament.** The organization licensed to conduct a tournament game under this  
15 section shall display the rules of the tournament game and the license issued. The  
16 maximum number of players allowed is ~~400 unless the tournament game is held on~~  
17 ~~premises owned by the licensee, in which case the maximum number of players allowed~~  
18 ~~is 300.~~ Winners are determined by a process of elimination. The use of currency is  
19 prohibited as part of tournament game play. The maximum entry fee to play in the  
20 tournament game is ~~\$100~~ \$200, except the organization may add to the player entry fee to  
21 defray the cost of the license fee, as long as the total additional amount collected from all  
22 players does not exceed ~~\$125~~ \$225. An organization that holds a per tournament license  
23 may collect up to ~~\$150~~ \$250 to defray the cost of the license fee. Only one entry fee is  
24 permitted per person. A tournament game must be completed within 48 hours. Other  
25 games of chance on the premises are prohibited during a tournament game, except for  
26 lucky seven or similar sealed tickets and no more than one 50/50 raffle per tournament  
27 with a prize value up to \$1,000. This subsection does not prohibit a licensee from  
28 conducting one winner-take-all hand per tournament game with a bet limit of \$5. The  
29 total number of bets received in a winner-take-all round must be awarded to the winner or  
30 in the case of multiple winners divided among them as evenly as possible. All prizes  
31 awarded in accordance with this subsection must be paid in cash.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill amends the laws governing the operation of tournament games by charitable  
34 organizations. Current law requires that only members of the organization may conduct  
35 tournament games. This bill allows the charitable organization to hire nonmembers to  
36 conduct the tournament games. Compensation paid to nonmembers for conducting a  
37 tournament game is limited to 20% of the gross revenue from the entry fees collected for  
38 the tournament game. The bill also increases the maximum entry fee for tournament  
39 game players.