

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 510

S.P. 171

In Senate, February 9, 2017

**An Act To Create Fairness in Gaming License Fees for Small
Nonprofit Organizations**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Heather J.R. Priest'.

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1834, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2, is
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Operation of games of chance.** Except for electronic video games and games of
5 cards as provided in this section, the fee for a license to operate a game of chance is \$15
6 for each week computed on a Monday to Sunday basis or for a portion of a week. The fee
7 for a license issued for a calendar month is \$60 and the fee for ~~licenses~~ a license issued
8 for a calendar year is \$700, except that when an organization with a net revenue of less
9 than \$10,000 for the prior year applies for a license issued for a calendar year, the fee is
10 \$175.

11 The Chief of the State Police may issue any combination of weekly or monthly licenses
12 for the operation of games of chance. Except for games of cards as provided in
13 subsection 4, licenses to conduct any authorized game of chance may be issued for a
14 period of up to 12 months on one application.

15 **Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §1834, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 218, §1, is further
16 amended to read:

17 **4. Games of cards.** The fee for a license issued to an organization to operate a game
18 of cards, when the organization charges no more than a \$10 daily entry fee for
19 participation in the games of cards and when no money or valuable thing other than the
20 \$10 daily entry fee is gambled by any person in connection with the game of cards, is \$30
21 for each calendar year or portion of a calendar year, except that for an organization with a
22 net revenue of less than \$10,000 for the prior year, the fee is \$7.50. For card games that
23 are played by placing the maximum bet of \$1 per hand or deal, the license fee is the same
24 as provided in subsection 2.

25 **Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §1836, sub-§3-A, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 306, §1, is
26 further amended to read:

27 A. For tournament games that do not exceed 100 players:

28 (1) Seventy-five dollars per tournament license;

29 (2) Two hundred dollars for a monthly license; and

30 (3) Fifteen hundred dollars for an annual license, except that for an organization
31 with a net revenue of less than \$10,000 for the prior year, the fee is \$375; and

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill reduces by 75% the annual fee for a license to conduct games of chance and
34 games of cards, including tournament games, for organizations with net revenues from
35 those activities of less than \$10,000 for the prior year.