

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1088

H.P. 683

House of Representatives, March 9, 2023

**An Act to Update the Gambling Laws to Allow Once-annual Casino
Nights for Charitable Purposes or Registered Political Committees**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, COLLINGS of Portland, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, PERRY of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1832, sub-§2-B** is enacted to read:

3 **2-B. Once-annual registration.** The Gambling Control Unit may accept a registration
4 from any person or organization to conduct games of chance a single time in a calendar
5 year, the proceeds from which are dedicated to a charitable purpose or a fund-raising event
6 sponsored by a committee registered and filing reports under Title 21-A, chapter 13. A
7 person or organization seeking to conduct games of chance under this subsection shall
8 register in a manner prescribed by the Gambling Control Unit and shall maintain records
9 in the same manner as described under section 1839, except that disposition of funds reports
10 are not required to be submitted to the Gambling Control Unit but must be maintained in
11 the same manner as other records.

12 **Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §1832, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. KKKKK,
13 §15, is further amended to read:

14 **6. Multiple licenses.** The Gambling Control Unit may issue more than one license or
15 registration to conduct or operate a game governed by this chapter simultaneously to an
16 eligible organization described in subsection 2 and any person or organization as described
17 in subsection 2-B. Each game governed by this chapter must have a separate license, the
18 nature of which must be specified on the license.

19 **Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §1835-A, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 136, §7, is further
20 amended to read:

21 **2. Games conducted by members and bartenders of registrant only.** A game of
22 chance registered pursuant to this chapter must be operated and conducted for the exclusive
23 benefit of the registrant and, except for an Internet raffle conducted by an Internet raffle
24 operator, must be operated and conducted only by duly authorized members of the
25 registrant or by persons employed by the registrant as bartenders. Nonmembers employed
26 by the registrant as bartenders may not operate or conduct any game of chance permitted
27 under subsection 5, paragraph B. The requirements of this subsection do not apply to any
28 agricultural society registered to operate a game of chance or a person or organization
29 issued a once-annual registration under section 1832, subsection 2-B.

30 **Sec. 4. 17 MRSA §1835-A, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 117, §6, is further
31 amended to read:

32 **5. Location; frequency.** A registration for a game of chance must specify the location
33 where the organization may operate the game. A registrant may not operate games of
34 chance in more than one location at the same time.

35 A. An agricultural society or a bona fide nonprofit organization may operate a game
36 of chance on the grounds of an agricultural society and during the annual fair of the
37 agricultural society.

38 B. No more than one registrant may operate a game of chance at a time on the same
39 premises. In any room where a registered game of chance is being conducted, there
40 must be at least one member of the organization registered to conduct games of chance
41 present in that room for every 2 nonmembers who are present. That member must have
42 been a member of the registered organization for at least one year. A member of the
43 organization registered to conduct games of chance, either directly or through another

1 member or guest, may not stake or risk something of value in the registrant's game of
2 chance unless the member has been a member of the organization registered to conduct
3 games of chance for at least 14 days not including the day of admission into
4 membership.

5 A bona fide nonprofit organization may operate a registered game of chance to which the
6 general public has access no more than 4 times in a calendar year for a period not to exceed
7 4 consecutive days. The game of chance may be operated at any location described in the
8 organization's registration and may be conducted only by members of the registrant. This
9 subsection does not apply to raffles conducted in accordance with section 1837-A. A person
10 or organization registered under section 1832, subsection 2-B is authorized to conduct
11 games of chance for one day in any 12-month period.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit to accept
14 a once-annual registration from any person or organization to conduct games of chance,
15 the proceeds from which are dedicated to a charitable purpose or a fund-raising event
16 sponsored by a registered party committee, political action committee or ballot question
17 committee.