

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2070

Date: 2/29/24

(Filing No. S-552)

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VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

131ST LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 871, L.D. 2070, "An Act to Implement a Facility-based Monitoring System for Slot Machines"

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Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

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'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

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Whereas, the current contract between the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board and the 3rd party operating the central site monitoring system on behalf of the Gambling Control Board expires on June 30, 2024; and

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Whereas, it is necessary to enact the changes authorizing the transition from a central site monitoring system to a facility-based monitoring system before the expiration of the current contract; and

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Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

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Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 13-B in the last line (page 1, line 8 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "and disabling of slot machines" and inserting the following: 'and malfunction'

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Amend the bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting the following:

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'Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §1003, sub-§2, ¶K, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 687, Pt. A, §5 and affected by Pt. B, §11, is amended to read:

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K. ~~Maintain~~ Ensure the board or the director or staff, in collaboration with the casino operator or slot machine operator, has the ability to activate and deactivate the operation of individual slot machines via the central site monitoring system under authority of board staff or persons contracted by the board;'

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Amend the bill by striking out all of section 6 and inserting the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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'Sec. 6. 8 MRSA §1003, sub-§2, ¶N, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 687, Pt. A, §5 and affected by Pt. B, §11, is amended to read:

N. Cause ~~the central site monitoring system to disable~~, in collaboration with the casino operator or slot machine operator, a slot machine to be disabled that does not meet registration requirements provided by this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter ~~or as directed by the department;~~'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 7. 8 MRSA §1003, sub-§2, ¶O, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 687, Pt. A, §5 and affected by Pt. B, §11, is amended to read:

O. Cause ~~the central site monitoring system to disable~~, in collaboration with the casino operator or slot machine operator, a slot machine to be disabled and cause the department to seize the proceeds of that slot machine if the funds from that slot machine have not been distributed, deposited or allocated in accordance with section 1036;'

Amend the bill in section 8 in §1004 in subsection 1 by inserting after paragraph G the following:

'An on-site computer system that is accessible by the department through read-only access and was in operation as of January 1, 2024 at a casino or slot machine facility operated by a person licensed under section 1011 is considered a facility-based monitoring system under this chapter.'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 12 the following:

'Sec. 13. 8 MRSA §1020, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2019, c. 614, §4, is further amended to read:

4. Examination Certification of slot machines and associated equipment. The board shall, in cooperation with the department, ~~examine~~ approve qualified independent laboratories for certification of slot machines and slot machine associated equipment ~~of~~ from slot machine distributors and gambling services vendors seeking registration as required in this chapter. The board shall require the slot machine distributor or gambling services vendor seeking ~~examination and approval~~ certification of the slot machine or slot machine associated equipment to pay the board-approved independent laboratory the ~~anticipated~~ anticipated cost of the ~~examination~~ certification before the ~~examination occurs~~ certification is completed. ~~After the examination occurs, the board shall refund overpayments or charge and collect amounts sufficient to reimburse the board for underpayments of actual cost.~~ The board may ~~contract for the examinations of slot machines and slot machine associated equipment as required by this section~~ adopt rules to establish the approval process to verify certifications, approve shipments and inspect slot machines. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 14. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Gambling Control Board Z002

Initiative: Reduces allocations for contracted services related to a central site monitoring system for slot machines.

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OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	(\$500,000)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$500,000)

Sec. 15. Effective date. This Act takes effect June 30, 2024.'

Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

'Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment does the following.

1. The bill provides that a facility-based monitoring system is used to disable slot machines; the amendment instead provides that the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board, or the director or staff of the board, in collaboration with a casino operator or slot machine operator, has the ability to disable slot machines when appropriate.

2. It clarifies that an on-site computer system that is accessible by the Department of Public Safety through read-only access and was in operation as of January 1, 2024 at a casino or slot machine facility licensed by the State is considered a facility-based monitoring system.

3. It amends the provision of law regarding examination of slot machines and associated equipment to provide that the Gambling Control Board, in cooperation with the Department of Public Safety, must approve qualified independent laboratories for certification of slot machines and associated equipment from slot machine distributors and gambling services vendors seeking registration. A slot machine distributor or gambling services vendor seeking certification of the slot machine or associated equipment must pay the board-approved independent laboratory the cost of the certification before it is completed. The Gambling Control Board may adopt routine technical rules to establish the approval process to verify certifications, approve shipments and inspect slot machines.

4. It adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause and an effective date of June 30, 2024.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2070

LR 2775(02)

An Act to Implement a Facility-based Monitoring System for Slot Machines

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-552)
 Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	(\$500,000)	(\$1,100,000)	(\$1,100,000)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill replaces the current requirement that the Gambling Control Unit (GCU) within the Department of Public Safety maintain a central site monitoring system with a requirement that all slot machines be able to electronically communicate with the GCU starting June 30, 2024. The bill includes a deallocation of Other Special Revenue Funds of \$500,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 to reflect elimination of expenses related to the maintenance of the central site monitoring system.