

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1851

Date: 3/20/26 MINORITY

(Filing No. H-875)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1235, L.D. 1851, "An Act to Bring Parity Among the Wabanaki Nations Regarding the Generation of Revenues from Gaming"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2011, c. 417, §7, is further amended to read:

1. Distribution for administrative expenses of board. A Prior to August 1, 2026, a slot machine operator licensed under section 1011, subsection 2 or a casino operator that is a commercial track that was licensed to operate slot machines under section 1011, subsection 2 on January 1, 2011 shall collect and distribute 1% of gross slot machine income to the Treasurer of State for deposit in the General Fund for the administrative expenses of the board. Beginning August 1, 2026, a slot machine operator licensed under section 1011, subsection 2 or a casino operator that is a commercial track that was licensed to operate slot machines under section 1011, subsection 2 on January 1, 2011 shall collect and distribute 1/2 of 1% of gross slot machine income to the Treasurer of State for deposit in the General Fund for the administrative expenses of the board.

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Distribution of gross slot machine income from slot machine operator or casino with commercial track to tribal governments. Beginning August 1, 2026, a slot machine operator licensed under section 1011, subsection 2 or a casino operator that is a commercial track that was licensed to operate slot machines under section 1011, subsection 2 on January 1, 2011 shall collect and distribute 1/2 of 1% of gross slot machine income to the board. The board shall forward those funds to the Treasurer of State, who shall distribute the funds to the tribal governments of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation. If a tribal government under this subsection receives revenue from the operation of Internet gaming under chapter 39, the tribal government may not receive funds under this subsection and those funds must be distributed to the Treasurer of State for deposit in the General Fund for the administrative expenses of the board.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF
Gambling Control Board Z002**

Initiative: Provides allocations to allow for the distribution of funding to the tribal governments of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,179,647
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$3,179,647

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment reduces, beginning August 1, 2026, the amount of gross slot machine income that must be deposited in the General Fund for the administrative expenses of the Gambling Control Board within the Department of Public Safety from 1% to 1/2 of 1%. It also provides that, beginning August 1, 2026, a slot machine operator or casino with a commercial track must collect and distribute 1/2 of 1% of gross slot machine income to the board. The board must forward those funds to the Treasurer of State for distribution to the tribal governments of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation. If such a tribal government receives revenue from the operation of Internet gaming, the tribal government may not receive funds from gross slot machine income and those funds must be distributed to the Treasurer of State for deposit in the General Fund for the administrative expenses of the board.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1851

LR 2166(02)

An Act to Bring Parity Among the Wabanaki Nations Regarding the Generation of Revenues from Gaming

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-875)
Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$3,179,647	\$3,327,763	\$3,314,396
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$3,179,647	\$3,327,763	\$3,314,396
Revenue				
General Fund	\$0	(\$3,179,647)	(\$3,327,763)	(\$3,314,396)
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$3,179,647	\$3,327,763	\$3,314,396

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill reduces the share of gross slot machine revenue deposited to the General Fund from 1% to 0.5% and directs the remaining 0.5% to the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation. The bill also provides that if either tribal government receives revenue from internet gaming, the portion of the 0.5% attributable to that government reverts to the General Fund.

If neither tribal government receives internet gaming revenue, General Fund revenue will decrease by \$3,179,647 beginning in fiscal year 2026-27 with a corresponding increase in Other Special Revenue Funds revenue. The bill includes an accompanying Other Special Revenue Funds allocation to authorize distribution of this revenue to the specified tribal governments.

If one or both tribal governments receive internet gaming revenue, the General Fund revenue reduction will be partially or fully offset as the redirected revenue reverts to the General Fund. Because the regulatory framework for internet gaming has not been finalized, the fiscal impact of this provision cannot be determined at this time.