

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature coming from the

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

July 2007

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STATE OF MAINE

123RD LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS



This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

CON RES XXX.....	Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.....	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES.....	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY.....	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT.....	Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY.....	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP.....	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP-ND.....	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
PUBLIC XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX.....	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session is **September 20, 2007**. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

LD 892

An Act To Authorize Nonprofit Organizations To Conduct Tournament Games

PUBLIC 205

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PATRICK BRYANT B	OTP-AM	H-267

Current law allows for licensed games of chance, like poker, but limits the maximum bet on a game, to \$1 per bet. This bill creates a new tournament game license where an entry fee would be paid per person to participate in the tournament plus a license fee. The winner of the tournament would receive 75% of the entry fees as the winning prize.

This bill authorizes the Chief of the State Police to issue a tournament game license to organizations that are eligible to conduct beano and games and games of chance and have first received municipal approval. The maximum entry fee would be \$100 and the maximum number of players would be 100. The bill provides for an additional license fee of \$5 per person. An organization would be limited to one tournament license per month. Tokens or chips would be used during the course of play and the tournament must be completed within 48 hours. Lucky-seven or similar sealed tickets would be permitted to be sold at these tournaments.

Seventy-five percent of the proceeds remaining after the payment of prizes would be required to go to the charity designated in the license application already submitted to the Chief of the State Police. The bill provides that the Chief of the State Police may only retain revenue from license fees in an amount to cover administration of tournament games. License fees collected in excess of those used to defray administrative costs are divided between the River Valley Technology Center, the Fractionation Development Center and the General Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-267)

This amendment removes the reference to municipal approval and replaces it with local governing authority approval in reference to the requirements to be met before the Chief of the State Police will consider an application for a tournament game license. This amendment also removes the River Valley Technology Center as a recipient of surplus fees from tournament game licenses. Under this amendment the 20% that would have gone to the River Valley Technology Center will be credited to the General Fund.

Enacted Law Summary

Public law 2007, chapter 205 creates a new tournament game license where an entry fee would be paid per person to participate in the tournament plus a license fee. The winner of the tournament would receive 75% of the entry fees as the winning prize.

The law authorizes the Chief of the State Police to issue a tournament game license to organizations that are eligible to conduct beano and games and games of chance and have first received approval from the local governing board. The maximum entry fee would be \$100 and the maximum number of players would be 100. The bill provides for an additional license fee of \$5 per person. An organization would be limited to one tournament license per month. Tokens or chips would be used during the course of play and the tournament must be completed within 48 hours. Lucky-seven or similar sealed tickets would be permitted to be sold at these tournaments.

Seventy-five percent of the proceeds remaining after the payment of prizes would be required to go to the charity designated in the license application already submitted to the Chief of the State Police. The bill provides that the Chief of the State Police may only retain revenue from license fees in an amount to cover administration of tournament games. License fees collected in excess of those used to defray administrative costs are divided so that 40% is distributed to the Fractionation Development Center and 60% to the General Fund.