

§1832. Licenses

1. License or registration required. Except as provided in sections 1837-A and 1837-B, a person, firm, corporation, committee, association or organization may not hold, conduct or operate a game of chance without a license issued by or, as applicable, without registering with the Gambling Control Unit in accordance with this section. A license is not required when a game of chance constitutes social gambling. For purposes of this section, "committee" means a party committee, political action committee or ballot question committee registered and required to file reports under Title 21-A, chapter 13.

[PL 2023, c. 391, §1 (AMD).]

2. Eligible organizations; licenses. The Gambling Control Unit may issue a license to operate a card game and certain tournament games to an organization that submits a completed application as described in subsection 5 and has been founded, chartered or organized in this State for a period of not less than 2 consecutive years prior to applying for a license and is:

- A. An agricultural society; [PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]
- B. A bona fide nonprofit charitable, educational, political, civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic or religious organization; [PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]
- C. A volunteer fire department; or [PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]
- D. An auxiliary of any of the organizations in paragraphs A to C. [PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. KKKKK, §15 (AMD).]

2-A. Registration. The Gambling Control Unit may accept a registration from an eligible organization described in subsection 2 and other persons as specifically provided under section 1835-A, section 1836, subsection 4-B and section 1837-A to conduct games of chance, raffles and charitable cribbage tournaments. An eligible organization or person seeking to register to conduct a game of chance, raffle or charitable cribbage tournament shall register in the manner prescribed by the Gambling Control Unit and shall maintain records and reports in the same manner as described under section 1839, except that disposition of funds reports are not required to be submitted to the Gambling Control Unit but must be maintained in the same manner as other records.

[PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. KKKKK, §15 (NEW).]

2-B. Once-annual game night registration. The Gambling Control Unit may accept a registration from an eligible organization described in subsection 2 or a committee to conduct once in a calendar year a game night, referred to in this section as "a game night," which may include the operation or conduct of card games and games of chance. The proceeds from the game night must be dedicated to a verifiable charitable purpose, except that, if the registrant is a committee, the proceeds must be for the purpose of fund-raising. An eligible organization or committee seeking to register to conduct a game night under this subsection shall register in the manner prescribed by the Gambling Control Unit and shall maintain records in the same manner as described under section 1839, except that disposition of funds reports for card games allowed under this subsection are not required to be submitted to the Gambling Control Unit but must be maintained in the same manner as other records.

[PL 2023, c. 391, §2 (NEW).]

3. Must be 18 years of age. The Gambling Control Unit may not accept a registration to conduct a game night, a game of chance, a raffle or certain tournament games or accept an application from or issue a license for card games and certain tournament games under this section to a person or representative of an eligible organization or committee who is not 18 years of age or older.

[PL 2023, c. 391, §3 (AMD).]

4. Municipal approval required. An eligible organization described in subsection 2 applying for a license to conduct a card game and tournament games requiring a license or an eligible organization or committee registering to conduct a game night under subsection 2-B shall obtain written approval from the local governing authority where the game or the game night is to be operated or conducted. This written approval must be submitted with the application to the Gambling Control Unit as described in subsection 5.

[PL 2023, c. 391, §4 (AMD).]

5. Application. An eligible organization described in subsection 2 seeking to obtain a license to conduct a card game or certain tournament games requiring a license shall submit an application to the Gambling Control Unit. The application must be in a form provided by the Gambling Control Unit and must be signed by a duly authorized officer of the eligible organization. The application must include the full name and address of the organization, a full description of the card game or tournament game, the location where the card game or tournament game is to be conducted and any other information determined necessary by the Gambling Control Unit for the issuance of a license to operate a card game or certain tournament games, including but not limited to membership lists, bylaws and documentation showing the organization's nonprofit status or charitable designation.

[PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. KKKKK, §15 (AMD).]

5-A. Once-annual game night application. An eligible organization described in subsection 2 or committee seeking to register to conduct a game night shall submit an application to the Gambling Control Unit. The application must be in a form provided by the Gambling Control Unit and must be signed by a duly authorized officer of the eligible organization or committee. The application must include the full name and address of the eligible organization or committee, a full description of the card games or games of chance to be operated or conducted, the location where the game night is to be conducted and any other information determined necessary by the Gambling Control Unit for the issuance of a registration to conduct a game night, including but not limited to membership lists, bylaws, documentation showing the organization's nonprofit status or charitable designation, if applicable, documentation showing the committee's registration under Title 21-A, chapter 13, if applicable, and documentation verifying the purpose of the game night's proceeds. A game night must be conducted in accordance with section 1835-B. If the game night will be conducted, pursuant to section 1835-B, subsection 2, by employees of a distributor licensed under section 1840, the application must include the full name and address of the licensed distributor and any other information determined necessary by the Gambling Control Unit.

[PL 2023, c. 391, §5 (NEW).]

6. Multiple licenses. The Gambling Control Unit may issue more than one license or registration to conduct or operate a game governed by this chapter simultaneously to an eligible organization described in subsection 2. Each game governed by this chapter must have a separate license, the nature of which must be specified on the license, except that a registration issued under subsection 2-B for a game night may allow for multiple card games and games of chance to be operated or conducted simultaneously by the eligible organization or committee described in subsection 2-B without separate licenses or registrations.

[PL 2023, c. 391, §6 (AMD).]

7. Agricultural fairs. Notwithstanding any provision in this chapter to the contrary, in addition to games of chance, the Gambling Control Unit may accept a registration to conduct or operate games of chance known as "penny falls" or "quarter falls" at any agricultural fair, as long as the net revenue from those games is retained by the registered agricultural society.

[PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. KKKKK, §15 (AMD).]

8. Electronic video machines. The Gambling Control Unit may issue a license to operate an electronic video machine to any eligible organization described in subsection 2.

A. An electronic video machine licensed under this section may only be operated for the exclusive benefit of the licensee, except that up to 50% of the gross proceeds from the operation of the machine may be paid to the distributor as a rental fee and for service and repair of the machine. Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, a licensee may rent an electronic video machine from a distributor. [PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

B. No more than 5 electronic video machines may be operated on the licensee's premises. A separate games of chance license is required for the operation of each electronic video machine. [PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

C. A licensee may operate an electronic video machine only on the licensee's premises. [PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

D. Two or more licensees may not share the use of any premises for the operation of electronic video machines. [PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

E. A distributor or employee of the distributor may not be a member of the licensed organization. [PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

F. An electronic video machine licensed under this subsection may not be operated in a manner that meets the definition of illegal gambling machine as described in Title 17-A, section 952, subsection 5-A. [PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. KKKKK, §15 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. KKKKK, §15 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 129, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 136, §5 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 391, §§1-6 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.