



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 121

H.P. 103

House of Representatives, January 29, 2013

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Operation of Tournament Games by Charitable Organizations

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative WILSON of Augusta. (BY REQUEST)

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1836, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

3 **2-A. Members and nonmembers may conduct tournament games.**
4 Notwithstanding section 1835, subsection 2, an organization licensed to conduct a
5 tournament game may permit persons who are not members of the organization to
6 conduct a tournament game on behalf of the organization. An organization licensed to
7 conduct a tournament game may compensate nonmembers who conduct the tournament
8 game in an amount not to exceed 20% of the total revenue from entry fees received for
9 the tournament game. At least one member of the organization licensed to conduct a
10 tournament game must be present at all times when the tournament game is being
11 conducted.

12 **Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §1836, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 325, §4, is further
13 amended to read:

14 **4. Tournament.** The organization licensed to conduct a tournament game under this
15 section shall display the rules of the tournament game and the license issued. The
16 maximum number of players allowed is ~~400 unless the tournament game is held on~~
17 ~~premises owned by the licensee, in which case the maximum number of players allowed~~
18 ~~is 300.~~ Winners are determined by a process of elimination. The use of currency is
19 prohibited as part of tournament game play. The maximum entry fee to play in the
20 tournament game is ~~\$100~~ \$200, except the organization may add to the player entry fee to
21 defray the cost of the license fee, as long as the total additional amount collected from all
22 players does not exceed ~~\$125~~ \$225. An organization that holds a per tournament license
23 may collect up to ~~\$150~~ \$250 to defray the cost of the license fee. Only one entry fee is
24 permitted per person. A tournament game must be completed within 48 hours. Other
25 games of chance on the premises are prohibited during a tournament game, except for
26 lucky seven or similar sealed tickets and no more than one 50/50 raffle per tournament
27 with a prize value up to \$1,000. This subsection does not prohibit a licensee from
28 conducting one winner-take-all hand per tournament game with a bet limit of \$5. The
29 total number of bets received in a winner-take-all round must be awarded to the winner or
30 in the case of multiple winners divided among them as evenly as possible. All prizes
31 awarded in accordance with this subsection must be paid in cash.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill amends the laws governing the operation of tournament games by charitable
34 organizations. Current law requires that only members of the organization may conduct
35 tournament games. This bill allows the charitable organization to hire nonmembers to
36 conduct the tournament games. Compensation paid to nonmembers for conducting a
37 tournament game is limited to 20% of the gross revenue from the entry fees collected for
38 the tournament game. The bill also increases the maximum entry fee for tournament
39 game players.