



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 975

H.P. 688

House of Representatives, March 9, 2017

An Act Regarding Licensing of Cribbage Tournaments

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative LUCHINI of Ellsworth.
Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and
Representative: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1833-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§1833-A. License exception**

4 Notwithstanding section 1832, a license to conduct a game of chance is not required
5 for a cribbage tournament if the conditions listed in this section are met. For the purposes
6 of this section, "cribbage" means a card game that uses a board and pegs to keep score
7 and of which the characteristic feature is a crib into which players discard cards from
8 their dealt hand to create a crib of 4 cards unseen by other players that will be ultimately
9 part of the dealer's hand. In a cribbage tournament, winners are determined by a process
10 of elimination. A cribbage tournament may extend beyond a calendar day. A person
11 may operate a cribbage tournament without a license if the operator:

12 **1. Licensed to sell liquor for on-premises consumption.** Is a person licensed to
13 sell liquor for consumption on the premises under Title 28-A, chapter 43 as a restaurant
14 or Class A restaurant or is licensed as a manufacturer under Title 28-A, section 1355-A
15 and provides samples as authorized under Title 28-A, section 1355-A, subsection 2,
16 paragraph A, B or F. An employee of a licensee listed in this subsection is authorized to
17 operate a cribbage tournament on behalf of the licensee;

18 **2. Games to be played by patrons on the licensed premises 21 years of age or**
19 **older.** Limits play to the location of the licensed establishment and to patrons of the
20 licensed establishment who are 21 years of age or older; and

21 **3. Operator may not profit.** Charges an entry fee not to exceed \$25 per person for
22 participation in the cribbage tournament. All entry fees must be awarded as prizes to
23 winners of the tournament for which the entry fees were paid, except that the operator
24 may donate all or a portion of the entry fees to a charitable organization. An operator
25 may not receive anything of value from patrons for their participation in a cribbage
26 tournament.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill provides that a license to conduct games of chance is not required for a
29 cribbage tournament operated on the premises of a restaurant or Class A restaurant
30 licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption or at a manufacturing
31 facility where samples are provided or sold, commonly known as a tasting room. The
32 operator must limit participation to patrons of the establishment who are 21 years of age
33 or older. The operator of a game may not profit and all entry fees must be paid to players
34 in the form of winnings or donated to a charitable organization. Entry fees may not
35 exceed \$25 per person.