

Date: (Filing No. S-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " " to S.P. 65, L.D. 253, Bill, "An Act To Remove the Bet Limit for Winner-take-all Hands in Games of Chance Tournament Games"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Clarify the Requirements for High-hand Competitions in Games of Chance Tournament Games'

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

'Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1831, sub-§7-A is enacted to read:

7-A. High-hand competition. "High-hand competition" means a game of chance conducted during a tournament game in which the winner is the person who plays the highest hand of cards, according to the rules of the tournament, during the tournament game.

Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §1836, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2013, c. 306, §2, is further amended to read:

4. Tournament. The organization licensed to conduct a tournament game under this section shall display the rules of the tournament game and the license issued. The maximum number of players allowed is 100 unless the tournament game is held on premises owned by the licensee, in which case the maximum number of players allowed is 300. Winners are determined by a process of elimination. The use of currency is prohibited as part of tournament game play. The maximum entry fee to play in the tournament game is \$100, except the organization may add to the player entry fee to defray the cost of the license fee, as long as the total additional amount collected from all players does not exceed \$125. Only one entry fee is permitted per person. A tournament game must be completed within 48 hours. Other games of chance on the premises are prohibited during a tournament game, except for high-hand competitions under subsection 7, lucky seven or similar sealed tickets and no more than one 50/50 raffle per tournament with a prize value up to \$1,000. This subsection does not prohibit a licensee from conducting one winner take all hand per tournament game with a bet limit of \$5.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 ~~The total number of bets received in a winner take all round must be awarded to the~~
2 ~~winner or in the case of multiple winners divided among them as evenly as possible. All~~
3 ~~prizes awarded in accordance with this subsection must be paid in cash or by check.~~

4 **Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §1836, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

5 **7. High-hand competition.** A licensee under this section may conduct one high-
6 hand competition per tournament game. Participation in the high-hand competition is not
7 mandatory and must be determined prior to the start of the tournament. Notwithstanding
8 any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, the total number of bets received in a
9 high-hand competition must be awarded to the winner or, in the case of multiple winners,
10 divided among them as evenly as possible. All prizes awarded in accordance with this
11 subsection must be paid in cash or by check.'

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

14 SUMMARY

15 This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. It removes the authority in
16 current law for one winner-take-all-hand to be conducted during a game of chance
17 tournament game and instead authorizes licensees to conduct one high-hand competition
18 per tournament game. Under the amendment, a "high-hand competition" is defined as an
19 optional game of chance conducted during a tournament game in which the winner is the
20 person who plays the highest hand of cards, according to the rules of the tournament,
21 during the tournament game. Participation in the high-hand competition must be
22 determined prior to the start of the tournament and the total number of bets received in a
23 high-hand competition must be awarded to the winner or, in the case of multiple winners,
24 divided among them as evenly as possible.

25 The amendment also authorizes the payment of tournament game prizes and high-
26 hand competition prizes either in cash or by check.

27 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

28 (See attached)