

TESTIMONY FOR **Veterans Legal Affairs** COMMITTEE JANUARY 28, 2026
Portland Moose Lodge 1310
George Shabo, Public Relations Chairman, NEMA Charties Chairman

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans Legal Affairs Committee, my name is George Shabo and I am the Public Relations Chairman for Portland Moose Lodge 1310. I am also the Charities Chairman for the Northeast Moose Association.

Please accept this testimony in support of LD1902, legislation to improve charitable gaming in Maine.

This legislation streamlines the management of charitable games, increases accountability, modernizes the game offerings to appeal to a wider variety of members, and allows for new electronic sealed ticket (Lucky 7) games. Such changes would allow eligible organizations, like ours, to generate new, sustainable revenue in support of our charitable missions.

Charitable gaming has been meaningful revenue source for the Portland Moose and has allowed us to raise funds to support operating costs, college scholarships, and to support numerous veteran and charitable programs in our communities. The Portland Moose recently donated over \$5,000 to the Travis Mills Foundation. As the needs of our community continue to grow and costs continue to escalate, so too does our need to raise funds.

Sealed tickets are a specialized form of legal charitable gaming that is available to members and guests of our fraternal organization when they are visiting our halls or attending our events.

This measure would not drastically change the gaming landscape in Maine. It simply gives the posts and lodges the option to introduce a modernized method of selling sealed ticket games that would enhance the entertainment value for our members. This legislation does not replace our paper ticket programs, it simply adds a new option.

Our continual goal is to engage a younger demographic to improve the sustainability of our organization. This legislation supports that effort.

This bill will have no financial impact on current commercial gaming operations in the state. However, the impact on our organization would be substantial, as it will improve our ability to sustain our organizations and further our humanitarian and charitable goals.

Additionally, the updated technology includes a robust system for collection and reporting of data which will allow for member organizations to have a more accurate accounting of the games and the revenue raised from them. The updated technology will also ease regulatory duties by streamlining auditing and report generation.