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Testimony of Senator Joe Baldacci introducing LD 504 "An Act Regarding Licensing Fees for Small Slot Machine Distributors"

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

February 27, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. I am Senator Joe Baldacci, and I proudly represent Senate District 9, which is made up of Bangor and Hermon. I am here today to present LD 504, "An Act Regarding Licensing Fees for Small Slot Machine Distributors."

As the bill summary indicates, this bill sets the initial application fee for a slot machine distributor that distributes fewer than 50 machines annually at \$50,000 and the annual renewal fee for those distributors at \$10,000. The bill would not impact any of the current licenses, or state revenues, but could encourage new vendors to participate in Maine. The current slot machine distributor license fee is cost prohibitive for smaller distributors, some of whom offer new slots customers are not able to play.

Thank you all for your time and consideration. I would ask that you direct your questions to Milt Champion, Director of the Gambling Control Unit in the Department of Public Safety.