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Legislative Testimony
Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee
Milton F. Champion III – Executive Director
Gambling Control Unit
Department of Public Safety
March 8, 2023, 1:00 pm, Room 437, State House

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and Distinguished Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, I am Milton Champion, Executive Director of the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety. I am here today on behalf of the Department of Public Safety to testify “Neither For Nor Against” LD 731 which is an Act Regarding the Licensing of Persons to Conduct Advance Deposit Wagering.

Current law requires the Gambling Control Board to award, through a competitive bidding process, one bidder the privilege to be licensed to conduct advance deposit wagering. The current awardee, Penn ADW LLC is under contract until May 31, 2025 and is paying revenue due the state of 5% of gross wagers for both in state and out of state wagers.

A similar bill, LD 1797 died in possession of the senate upon conclusion of the 129th legislature and was placed in the legislative files on November 16, 2020. The following changes have been made to this bill in relation to LD 1797:

- Added definition of Gross advance deposit wagering income;
- Licensing of advance deposit wagering employees;
- Exceptions to employee licensing;
- Removes exception that an entity that operates ADW may not receive a distribution of the revenue due the state;
- Revenue collection of 1% of gross wagers for both in state and out of state wagers instead of the Board establishing by rule the net commission for distribution;

However an amendment to this bill by the sponsor has increased the revenue percentage from 1% to 5% of gross wagers in line with the current revenue percentage of 5 percent.

The Unit will have recommendations to amendments of the current bill for the work session in the area of definitions, background investigations, licensing exceptions,

renewal periods and that any races available shall be made available to all ADW licensees in the state.

This bill would have the opportunity for up to ten or more additional operators in Maine and an undisclosed number of employees. It would require additional staff of one Office Assistant II for the Gambling Control Unit.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee today, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Respectfully