



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
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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 17, 2025, 11:30 am, 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 “Against” LD 835 which is “An Act to Allow Children to Participate in Beano Games Conducted by Nonprofit Charitable Organizations”.

This bill authorizes bona fide nonprofit charitable, educational, political, civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or veterans' organizations to conduct beano without a license or without registering with the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit when beano games are offered exclusively to a club, group or organization composed of individuals at least 90% of whom are under 18 years of age or to an incorporated community organization, agency or institution, games are offered exclusively on the premises of the organization conducting beano and there is no fee charged to participate in a beano game.

Due to the expansion over the years, charitable events have been added and coordination with the oversight of this area is essential as the Unit continues to find illegal events taking place both in person and over the internet. The Gambling Control Unit should have some knowledge of events in order to inspect and assure that the events are being run properly, and the participants are within the guidelines of law or rule. Currently two inspectors complete inspections of events for the entire state. Additionally, these inspectors also check the web for non-registered or non-licensed events to ensure that the guidelines for internet activity are legal in Maine. The Unit will be requesting an Office Specialist to better oversee and assist organizations in having and reporting legal events and scheduling inspections for compliance.

Currently there are 493 eligible organizations registered with the Gambling Control Unit. In 2024 the Unit registered and/or licensed 4,224 events. Of those events, 300 inspections were completed by two charitable inspectors.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. G." followed by a horizontal flourish.