

Testimony of Patrick Woodcock
Before the Joint Standing Committees on Veterans and Legal Affairs
In Opposition to LD 1910
"An Act to Support Nonprofit Organizations by Authorizing the Operation of Electronic
Lucky Seven Devices and Similar Sealed Ticket Games"
January 13th, 2026

My name is Patrick Woodcock, and I serve as President and CEO of the of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, the state's largest statewide business organization. I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to LD 1902. While we recognize that the intent of LD 1902 is to create additional revenue opportunities for nonprofit organizations, including those that serve veterans, churches, and other important community causes, we urge caution on adjusting state gambling policies without a full consideration of the two casinos in our state that are important economic engines for Maine's state revenues and economic vitality of two key regions, Bangor and Oxford County.

LD 1902 would introduce a new form of gaming that could create an uneven competitive landscape by allowing similar gaming activity outside of existing casino frameworks, without comparable capital investment, taxation structure, or operational obligations. This raises concerns about the potential erosion of established revenue streams that currently benefit the State, municipalities, and Maine workers.

We appreciate the sponsor's intent with the bill. The goal of strengthening nonprofit funding streams across Maine is laudable. However, we have significant concerns about the broader economic and regulatory implications this legislation may have statewide.

Maine's existing casino operators represent long-standing, heavily regulated economic engines that contribute substantial and predictable revenues to both the State and host communities. Specifically, these facilities have made major capital investments over many years and provide hundreds of well-paying jobs with benefits. Collectively, they contribute millions of dollars annually in gaming taxes and fees that support public services throughout Maine. These investments have been predicated on a regulatory environment that, until recently, has been relatively stable.

Casinos operate under strict, on-site oversight designed to prevent underage play, address problem gambling, and ensure integrity of operations there should be regulatory consistency and their needs to be consumer protections for all operators. Expanding gaming into additional venues may make consistent enforcement more challenging and could increase risks related to access, oversight, and public health impacts.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions or provide additional information.