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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

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Madame Chair, distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee:
Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of my bill, **LD 1902, "An Act to Support Nonprofit Organizations by Authorizing the Operation of Electronic Lucky Seven Devices and Similar Sealed Ticket Games."** This bill is about strengthening the heart of our communities — the local nonprofit and veterans' service organizations that serve Maine families every single day.

These organizations in Maine do remarkable work. They support youth programs, community food pantries, veteran services, historic preservation, animal welfare, education, and more. All across our state, these organizations rely heavily on fundraising efforts to sustain their missions. Yet today's fundraising landscape has changed — in many cases dramatically — and organizations need more tools to help them modernize their efforts. **LD 1902 provides those tools while still respecting responsible gaming standards.**

What this bill does is straightforward: it **authorizes the GCU to issue licenses to eligible organizations to operate electronic lucky seven devices and similar sealed ticket games.** These are modern, sealed-ticket gaming devices that many Maine communities are already familiar with in paper form — games that raise critical funds for worthy causes. This legislation also includes sensible safeguards: it limits the number and operation of these devices, requires at least one redemption kiosk for the public's convenience, and ensures that distributors are licensed and accountable.

I want to be clear: this bill does **not** expand commercial gambling in Maine. It does **not** open the door to unchecked gaming. And it does **not** eliminate the ability for organizations to continue using paper pull tabs. What it does is give *eligible organizations* — the groups that put on the local fire department's charity dinner, that run the food pantry, that provide after-school programs — a chance to attract vital fundraising dollars.

LD 1902 also includes important regulatory oversight. By requiring licensing, restricting device operation, and placing accountability at the forefront, **we protect the public while empowering community groups to thrive.** This balance is critical — and it is why this legislation is bipartisan and has drawn interest from organizations across the state.

For all these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support LD 1902. This bill recognizes the invaluable role these organizations play in our communities, and offers a practical, well-regulated tool to continue to help them serve our citizens

Thank you.