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Senator, District 17

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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LD 2048, "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Fantasy Contest Licensing"
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
January 14, 2026

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs: My name is Jeff Timberlake, and I represent the people of Senate District 17. I am before you today to present LD 2048, "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Fantasy Contest Licensing."

I submitted this bill on behalf of the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety. The purpose of this legislation is to modernize Maine's fantasy contest licensing laws and strengthen oversight of an industry that has changed significantly since Maine first authorized fantasy contests in 2017.

At that time, fantasy contest operators were generally smaller and had simpler ownership structures. Today, the industry includes large corporations, complex ownership arrangements, and increasingly, out-of-state and international acquisitions. Under current law, the Gambling Control Unit is often limited to obtaining release-of-information forms from key executives, which significantly restricts the State's ability to conduct meaningful suitability reviews.

LD 2048 addresses this by requiring disclosure of individuals and entities that have control over a fantasy contest operator, including major owners, parent or subsidiary companies, and key personnel with significant decision-making authority. This bill authorizes the Director of the Gambling Control Unit to require full state and federal criminal history record checks for applicants and for individuals who exercise control over these companies.

These background checks would be conducted through the Maine Criminal Justice Information System and the FBI, used only for licensing purposes, and kept confidential. This change is necessary to ensure the State can properly vet who is operating in this space, particularly as more companies and international interests become involved.

This bill is not intended to target legitimate operators or create unnecessary barriers. It is a reasonable update requested by the Gambling Control Unit to address gaps in current law and to give regulators the tools they need to protect consumers, maintain the integrity of the marketplace, and keep pace with the evolving fantasy contest industry.

I appreciate the committee's time and consideration, and I respectfully ask the committee to support LD 2048.