



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
BUREAU OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND LOTTERY OPERATIONS
8 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-0008

KIRSTEN LC FIGUEROA
COMMISSIONER

GREGORY R. MINEO
DIRECTOR

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

Testimony

of

Gregory R. Mineo
Director, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

LD 948– An Act to Support Boys and Girls Clubs through Lottery Revenue

April 2, 2021

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Gregg Mineo and I am the Director of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations. I am providing the following written testimony in opposition of LD 948.

LD 948 proposes the creation of a new lottery game with the proceeds dedicated to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of America or successor organization.

Since its inception in 1974, the Maine Lottery has transferred over \$1.54 billion to the State's General Fund—over \$64.5 million in FY20. Since 1996, the Maine State Lottery has also offered a variety of instant ticket games to specifically benefit the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. In FY20, the Maine Lottery transferred \$651,000 to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, for a total of \$21.9 million in the partnership's history. That being said, although there have been numerous bills over the last 25 years that, like LD 948, proposed creation of a new game that dedicates the revenue to a specific purpose, the Outdoor Heritage Fund game remains the only one of its kind.

The Maine Lottery is proud of the funding generated to support critical conservation and wildlife projects throughout Maine, but over the years player interest in the Maine Outdoor Heritage Game has waned and the dedicated revenue stream has become less dependable. Our experience has shown that a new game with dedicated revenue would not generate significant new lottery participation and revenue garnered by a new game would come at the expense of the General Fund. In addition, a new dedicated revenue game may result in a significant number of requests for other games to fund a variety of worthy causes.

It is preferable that Maine Lottery proceeds continue to flow to the General Fund. Additionally, Maine Lottery's staff are best positioned to maximize profits for the State when they are focused on the entire portfolio of games offered by Maine Lottery.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before the Committee today. I am happy to respond to any questions, and of course will be available for the work session.