



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
130th Legislature

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Testimony in Support of LD 1405
An Act to Regulate, Tax and Control Sports Wagering
Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
April 30, 2021

Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, my name is Troy Jackson and I have the great honor of serving as President of the Maine Senate. I proudly represent District 1, which is northern Aroostook County stretching roughly from Caribou north to the St. John Valley. I am here today to testify in support of LD 1405 "An Act to Regulate, Tax and Control Sports Wagering."

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill today as the committee looks to move forward with sports gaming regulations in Maine. Last session I introduced two bills on this topic for the committee's consideration. The proposal before you today is similar to LD 1657 from the previous session.¹

Legalizing and regulating sports gaming would greatly benefit Maine on several fronts. First, it would provide a legal framework for something that is already happening on the black market all over the state. This would allow for the state to generate revenue for something that is already happening in Maine and already generating revenue in neighboring states, most notably New Hampshire. As you can see in the bill, some of this revenue would be distributed to the Gambling Control Fund, to the Gambling Addiction Prevention Fund, harness racing facilities and the Sire Stakes Fund. Revenue would also go to the Agricultural Fair Promotion Fund, a new fund established by this bill to support Maine's agricultural fairs that have been hit particularly hard during the COVID-19 pandemic. The remaining revenue from wagering receipts would go to the General Fund.

Second, this bill requires the provider to be affiliated with licensed and regulated, brick and mortar Maine businesses — more often simply referred to as tethering. I believe that this approach is good for Maine businesses and jobs while increasing property tax and sales revenue for the state.

¹ <http://mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280073603>

As it stands now, sports betting is already offered in 21 states and the District of Columbia.² It's time the state of Maine moves forward with legalization and regulation in a way that supports the state's coffers, takes control of the black market, and supports existing businesses here in our state.

I know that there will be plenty of others who can speak in much greater detail on this bill. In any case, I want to thank you so much for your time, and I would be happy to take any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Troy Jackson
President of the Maine Senate
Senate District 1

² <https://www.americangaming.org/research/state-gaming-map/>