



CITY OF BANGOR

Testimony Before the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs Regarding LD 1404 “An Act to Legalize Sports Betting and Strengthen Public Education”

April 30, 2021

Senator Luchini and distinguished members of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, this testimony is being submitted electronically on behalf of the City of Bangor, in support of LD 1404 – An Act to Legalize Sports Betting and Strengthen Public Education.

Based on the overwhelming voter support in the past to operate casinos in both Bangor and Oxford, it is clear that the Maine people support gaming opportunities. While gaming began with slot machines, the voters again expressed their support to expand opportunities by approving the introduction of table games. The legalization of sports betting is merely the natural evolution of gaming opportunities.

The State of Maine has taken a very measured approach to the expansion of gaming within the State. Always being mindful of the potential oversaturation of the market, as well as ensuring that any expansion is done on an equitable basis.

LD 1404 represents the next step in gaming opportunities for Maine people. It further ensures that the entities that have committed financial resources within our State, in the form of both infrastructure and employment investments, will have the opportunity to enhance their existing gaming experiences. The eligibility requirements within this bill, ensure that the growth of gaming within the State remains measured and equitable. As the applicants already have a financial stake in ensuring that gaming is offered in accordance with existing Statute, this bill in essence limits the potential for exploitation, as any deviation would result in a significant risk to their established business.

The bill includes a proposed license fee formula that would fund the increased responsibilities placed on the Department of Public Safety, as well as provide a consistent stream of funding to support the State’s Gambling Addiction Prevent and Treatment Fund. Lastly, the balance of funds would be directed to K-12 education funding. By directing a new funding source towards Education, instead of reallocating existing funds, this bill would allow the State to move closer to its responsibility to fund 55% of local K-12 education costs, a threshold that has never been met.

Thank you for your time and consideration. For additional information, please feel free to contact any of the following municipal officials:

Dan Tremble, Council Chair
Catherine Conlow, City Manager
Debbie Laurie, Finance Director

dan.tremble@bangormaine.gov
cathy.conlow@bangormaine.gov
debbie.laure@bangormaine.gov