

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Bingo

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §314-B, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 197, §4, is amended to read:

2. Prizes. Notwithstanding the prize limits in section 317, an organization operating a winner-take-all round under this section shall pay all proceeds from each winner-take-all round as prizes, ~~provided except no winner receives~~ may receive more than \$500 ~~\$750~~.

Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §317, first ¶, as amended by PL 1999, c. 74, §2, is further amended to read:

The Chief of the State Police has the power to adopt rules, not inconsistent with law, that are necessary for the administration and enforcement of this chapter and for the licensing, conduct and operation of the amusement commonly known as "Beano" or "Bingo" and for the permitting and operation of commercial beano halls. The Chief of the State Police has the power and authority to regulate, supervise and exercise general control over the operation of such amusement and commercial beano halls, including, but not limited to, the payment of prizes and the use of equipment. ~~Any~~ A rule adopted by the Chief of the State Police concerning the value of prizes that may be awarded must include a provision that no single prize may exceed \$400 in value and that no more than ~~\$1,400~~ \$2,000 in total prizes may be awarded on any one occasion. In establishing ~~such~~ rules, which are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~H-A2-A~~, the Chief of the State Police ~~must~~ shall, in addition to the standards set forth in other provisions of this chapter, use the following standards setting forth conduct, conditions and activity considered undesirable:

Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §326, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 45, §3, is amended to read:

1-A. Payment of proceeds. An organization licensed to operate beano or bingo and Lucky 7 games in conjunction with beano or bingo may use the proceeds or part of the proceeds to:

A. Pay salaries, wages or remuneration to any person directly involved in operating beano, bingo or Lucky 7 games;

B. Defray the expenses or part of the expenses that further the purpose for which the organization is formed except that proceeds may not be:

(1) Used to purchase alcohol or to defray the cost of activities where alcohol is served; or

(2) Paid directly to organization members except as specifically allowed in this subsection; ~~and~~

C. Defray the expenses or part of the expenses of a member, auxiliary member, officer or employee of the organization for a serious illness, injury or casualty loss if the licensee makes an application and the application is approved by the licensing division within the Bureau of State Police.

(1) An application must be made in the form and contain the information the licensing division requires.

(a) In the case of serious illness or injury, the licensing division may require certification by a licensed physician setting out the facts in support of the application.

(b) In the case of a casualty loss, the licensing division may require statements or reports from a law enforcement agency, rescue or other emergency services personnel or an insurance agency to support the application.

(c) The licensing division may deny an application if it appears that the person who would receive the proceeds has adequate means of financial support, including, but not limited to, insurance or workers' compensation benefits; and

D. Defray the expense of advertising.

Sec. 4. 17 MRSA §335, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 45, §7, is amended to read:

2-A. Exceptions. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a licensee may pay or use the proceeds of a game of chance to:

A. Defray the expenses or part of the expenses that further the purpose for which the organization is formed, except that the proceeds may not be:

(1) Used to purchase alcohol or to defray the cost of activities where alcohol is served; or

(2) Paid directly to organization members except as specifically allowed in this section; and

B. Defray the expenses or part of the expenses of a member, auxiliary member, officer or employee of the organization for a serious illness, injury or casualty loss if the licensee makes an application pursuant to this section and the application is approved by the licensing division within the Bureau of State Police.

(1) An application must be made in the form and contain the information the licensing division requires.

(a) In the case of serious illness or injury, the licensing division may require certification by a licensed physician in support of the application.

(b) In the case of a casualty loss, the licensing division may require statements or reports from a law enforcement agency, rescue or other emergency services personnel or an insurance agency to support the application.

(c) The licensing division may deny an application if it appears that the person who would receive the proceeds has adequate means of financial support, including, but not limited to, insurance or workers' compensation benefits; and

C. Defray the expense of advertising.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the stakes in a winner-take-all round of bingo from \$500 to \$750. The bill also increases the value of a single prize in a game of bingo from \$1,400 to \$2,000. The bill also allows an organization licensed to operate beano or bingo games to use part of the proceeds to defray the expense of advertising.