



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1268

S.P. 388

In Senate, March 14, 2019

### An Act To Update and Clarify the Laws Governing Raffles

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Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec.  
Cosponsored by Representative NADEAU of Winslow and  
Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, DIAMOND of Cumberland, DILL of Penobscot, LUCHINI  
of Hancock, MIRAMANT of Knox, WOODSOME of York, Representatives: PICKETT of  
Dixfield, STEWART of Presque Isle.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1837-A**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 365, §1, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **§1837-A. Raffles**

5 **1. Registration required.** Unless otherwise specified by this section, a person or  
6 organization may not conduct a raffle without registering with the Gambling Control  
7 Unit.

8 **2. Raffle with a prize of \$2,500 or less.** A Except for raffles conducted by an  
9 eligible organization under subsection 2-A, a person or organization is not required to  
10 register with the Gambling Control Unit to conduct a raffle in which the total value of the  
11 prize offered to the holder of the winning chance does not exceed \$2,500. If the raffle is  
12 conducted in a manner in which there are multiple winning chances, the total value of all  
13 prizes offered may not exceed a value of \$2,500.

14 **2-A. Raffle with a prize of \$10,000 or less conducted by eligible organization.**  
15 An eligible organization as described in section 1832, subsection 2 is not required to  
16 register with the Gambling Control Unit to conduct a raffle in which the total value of the  
17 prize offered to the holder of the winning chance does not exceed \$10,000. If the raffle is  
18 conducted in a manner in which there are multiple winning chances, the total value of all  
19 prizes offered may not exceed a value of \$10,000.

20 **3. Raffle with a noncash prize of \$2,501 to \$10,000.** A Except for raffles  
21 conducted by an eligible organization under subsection 4, a person or organization may  
22 conduct a raffle in which the total value of the prize offered to the holder of the winning  
23 chance is greater than \$2,501 and does not exceed \$10,000 upon the acceptance of a  
24 registration by the Gambling Control Unit. The Gambling Control Unit may not accept a  
25 registration for a raffle under this subsection unless the registration states a verifiable  
26 charitable purpose for which the proceeds of the raffle are dedicated to benefit. If the  
27 raffle is conducted in a manner in which there are multiple winning chances, the total  
28 value of all prizes offered may not exceed a value of \$10,000. A prize offered for a raffle  
29 conducted under this subsection may not be in the form of cash and may not be  
30 exchanged for cash.

31 **4. Raffle with a noncash prize up to \$75,000 conducted by eligible organization;**  
32 **cash prizes up to \$20,000.** An eligible organization as described in section 1832,  
33 subsection 2 may conduct a raffle in which the total value of the prize offered to the  
34 holder of the winning chance does not exceed \$75,000 upon the acceptance of a  
35 registration by the Gambling Control Unit. The registration must state a verifiable  
36 charitable purpose for which the proceeds of the raffle are dedicated to benefit. If the  
37 raffle is conducted in a manner in which there are multiple winning chances, the total  
38 value of all prizes offered may not exceed a value of \$75,000. A noncash prize for a  
39 raffle conducted under this subsection may be in the alternate form of cash or may not  
40 be exchanged for cash not to exceed \$20,000. The total amount of cash prizes that may be  
41 awarded for a raffle conducted under this subsection may not exceed \$20,000 with no

1 more than one \$10,000 prize for the holder of a winning chance. ~~An eligible organization~~  
2 ~~may not conduct more than one raffle under this subsection in a 12-month period.~~

3 **5. Raffle conducted by persons 18 years of age or older; exception.** Raffle  
4 chances or tickets may not be sold by a person under 18 years of age, except for raffles  
5 conducted under subsections 2 and 3 designed to benefit activities of children at an event  
6 generally attended by persons under 18 years of age.

7 **6. Multiple raffles.** An eligible organization as described in section 1832,  
8 subsection 2 may conduct more than one raffle at a time under this section. Each raffle  
9 conducted under this subsection must meet the requirements of subsection 2-A or  
10 subsection 4.

## 11 SUMMARY

12 This bill amends the law governing raffles for certain nonprofit organizations in the  
13 following ways:

14 1. Increasing the amount of total value of all prizes for which the nonprofit  
15 organization is not required to register the raffle with the Gambling Control Unit from  
16 \$2,500 to \$10,000;

17 2. Allowing noncash raffle prizes to be in the alternate form of cash or to be  
18 exchanged for cash;

19 3. Removing the limitation allowing only one raffle with a noncash prize up to  
20 \$75,000 and a cash prize up to \$20,000 in a 12-month period; and

21 4. Clarifying that the nonprofit organization may conduct more than one raffle at a  
22 time.