

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

S.P. 76 - L.D. 147

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Raffles Conducted by Eligible Organizations

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

Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §1836, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2019, c. 119, §2, is further amended to read:

4. Tournament. The organization licensed to conduct a tournament game under this section shall display the rules of the tournament game and the license issued. The maximum number of players allowed is 100 unless the tournament game is held on premises owned by the licensee, in which case the maximum number of players allowed is 300. Winners are determined by a process of elimination. The use of currency is prohibited as part of tournament game play. The maximum entry fee to play in the tournament game is \$100, except the organization may add to the player entry fee to defray the cost of the license fee, as long as the total additional amount collected from all players does not exceed \$125. Only one entry fee is permitted per person. A tournament game must be completed within 48 hours. Other games of chance on the premises are prohibited during a tournament game, except for high-hand competitions under subsection 7, lucky seven or similar sealed tickets and no more than one 50/50 raffle per tournament with a prize value up to ~~\$1,000~~ \$2,000. All prizes awarded in accordance with this subsection must be paid in cash or by check.

Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §1837-A, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2019, c. 129, §3, is further amended to read:

3. Raffle with a noncash prize greater than \$2,500 but not greater than \$10,000. Except for raffles conducted by an eligible organization under subsection 4, a person or organization may conduct a raffle in which the total value of the prize offered to the holder of the winning chance is greater than \$2,500 and does not exceed \$10,000 upon the acceptance of a registration by the Gambling Control Unit. The Gambling Control Unit may not accept a registration for a raffle under this subsection unless the registration states a verifiable charitable purpose for which the proceeds of the raffle are dedicated to benefit. If the raffle is conducted in a manner in which there are multiple winning chances, the total value of all prizes offered may not exceed a value of \$10,000. A prize offered for a raffle

conducted under this subsection may not be in the form of cash and, notwithstanding subsection 8, may not be exchanged for cash.

Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §1837-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2019, c. 129, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Raffle with a noncash prize of up to \$75,000 \$150,000 or a cash prize of up to \$20,000 \$10,000 per holder of a winning chance conducted by eligible organization. An eligible organization as described in section 1832, subsection 2 may register with the Gambling Control Unit to conduct a raffle in which the total value of the prize or prizes awarded to the holder of a winning chance or to the holders of the winning chances does not exceed:

- A. ~~Seventy-five thousand dollars~~ Exceed \$150,000 that is not in the form of cash and, notwithstanding subsection 8, may not be exchanged for cash; or
- B. ~~Twenty thousand dollars in cash, with no~~ Include more than one \$10,000 cash prize for the each holder of a winning chance.

At the time of registration, the eligible organization shall state a verifiable charitable purpose that the proceeds of the raffle are dedicated to benefit.

Beginning December 1, 2024, the Gambling Control Unit shall adjust every 2 years the noncash prize dollar value based on the Consumer Price Index as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest amount divisible by \$100.

Sec. 4. 17 MRSA §1837-A, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 129, §3, is amended to read:

6. Multiple raffles. An eligible organization as described in section 1832, subsection 2 may conduct more than one raffle at a time that meet the requirements of subsections 2-A, 3 and 4, ~~except that an eligible organization may not conduct more than one registered raffle at the same time under subsection 4, paragraph A and may not conduct more than one registered raffle at the same time under subsection 4, paragraph B.~~ This subsection does not prevent an eligible organization from conducting one registered raffle under subsection 4, paragraph A at the same time that the eligible organization conducts one registered raffle under subsection 4, paragraph B. When an eligible organization conducts multiple raffles as permitted by this subsection, the eligible organization is not required to begin and end those raffles on the same dates.

Sec. 5. 17 MRSA §1837-A, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Lottery ticket as noncash prize; total value. A lottery ticket offered as a prize in a raffle held in accordance with this section is considered a noncash prize and the total value of the lottery ticket is determined by the purchase price of the lottery ticket and not by the potential or actual value of the lottery ticket winnings.

Sec. 6. 17 MRSA §1839, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. KKKKK, §27, is further amended to read:

1. Records required. Each licensee or registrant shall keep a record of all financial transactions involving games operated under this chapter. The Except for records kept by eligible organizations operating raffles under section 1837-A, the records must include an

exact account of all gross revenue from the games, an itemization of all allowable expenses, including, but not limited to, the cost of prizes, printing, licenses and administration, and the disposition of all proceeds, including, but not limited to, all gifts, grants and payments to any person, firm, corporation, association or organization for any purpose whatsoever. All financial records involving games operated under this chapter must be separate and distinguishable from other records of the organization. Revenue from more than one game operated under this chapter may be entered into one account.