



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Public Safety
Gambling Control Unit
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July 29, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On July 29, 2026, LD 2007 “An Act Regarding the Prohibition of Online Sweepstakes Games” became effective and is now codified at Title 8, Chapter 38 in the Maine Revised Statutes. The Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety is issuing this advisory to residents and visitors to the State of Maine regarding illegal online sweepstakes operators who may be offering illegal gambling in the State.

The new law defines an online sweepstakes game as a game, contest or promotion that:

- A. Is available on the Internet and accessible on a mobile telephone, computer terminal or similar access device;
- B. Uses a dual-currency system of payment; and
- C. Simulates casino-style gaming, including, but not limited to, slot machines, poker and other table games, lottery games, bingo or sports wagering.”

8 M.R.S. § 1351(6).

Maine law authorizes only entities licensed under Title 8, Chapters 33 (fantasy contests), 35 (sports wagering), and 39 (internet gaming) to offer and operate online gambling activities to Maine residents.

Patrons who choose to engage with unlicensed platforms do so at their own risk. Unlicensed operations, which are generally based out of state and often out of the country, include sites that may appear legitimate but lack any regulatory oversight in Maine. Examples of such unlicensed platforms may include “social casino” sites that offer real-money payouts, coin-titled substitutes, dual-currency systems, material prizes or gift cards.

The Gambling Control Unit CAN NOT provide assistance or intervention in cases of disputes regarding winnings or other account issues arising from participation in illegal gambling services.

Information regarding LEGITIMATE, licensed online operators, and all other licensed forms of legal gaming in Maine can be found on our website at [Maine Gambling Control Unit | Department of Public Safety](#).

Residents and visitors are urged to contact the Gambling Control Unit by email at gambling.control@maine.gov or by phone at 207-626-3900 with any questions about the legality of a particular online gambling site or service or to report any illegal activity.

The Gambling Control Unit also recognizes that gambling can become a serious problem for some individuals. If you or someone you know is struggling with gambling, please know that help is available. Resources for responsible gaming and problem gambling support can be found on the Gambling Control Unit website, including links to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention website or by calling 211 or the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800 GAMBLER.