



State YMCA of Maine
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT



BILL # 2017-103

Bill Sponsor: Rebecca Collins

Bill Co-Sponsor: Elizabeth Collins, Sydney Thompson

School / Club / YMCA: Presque Isle High School

Endorsed By: Michael Waugh

Referred to the committee on: Appropriations and Financial Affairs

An Act Relating To:

Increasing the Refundable Deposit on Returnable Beverage Containers, Amending Section 38-§3103 MRSA

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2017 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1: Definition of a beverage container**– "a bottle, can, jar, or other container made of glass, metal
2. or plastic that has been sealed by a manufacturer and at the time of sale contains 4 liters or less of a beverage,
3. except for a container composed, in whole or in part, of aluminum and plastic or aluminum and paper in
4. combination"
5. **Definition of a commingling agreement**– "an agreement between distributors of beverage containers and the
6. state that the distributors will pick up certain agreed-upon beverage containers from redemption centers"
7. **Definition of an escheat**– "money or property returned to the state"
8. **SECTION 2:** For refillable and nonrefillable beverage containers, except wine and spirits containers, the
9. manufacturer shall determine the deposit and refund value according to the type, kind and size of the beverage
10. container. The deposit and refund value may not be less than 10¢.
11. **SECTION 3:** For wine and spirits containers of greater than 50 milliliters, the refund value may not be less
12. than 25¢.
13. **SECTION 4:** Redemption centers and retail stores that refund deposits must submit a monthly report to the
14. State of how many bottles have been redeemed.
15. **SECTION 5:** Redemption centers and retail stores that refund deposits that are not in compliance with the
16. above section will be subject to a fine, to be determined by the State, at each instance of an infraction.
17. **SECTION 6:** Any individual attempting to refund a beverage container not purchased in the state of Maine
18. will be subject to a fine of \$100 per container.
19. **SECTION 7:** Background checks will be performed on any individual attempting to deposit bottles in bulk
20. (more than 2,500 containers). Nonprofit organizations may be exempt from this.
21. **SECTION 8:** All unclaimed deposits will be transferred monthly to the State, except for deposits from
22. containers subject to a commingling agreement.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

Michigan, the only state that currently has a 10¢ refund for beverage containers, had an average redemption rate of 96.7% as of 2014, the highest in the country. The state of Maine currently has a 5¢ refund/15¢ for large alcohol containers, and does not track redemption rates.

JUSTIFICATION:

Raising the deposit amount on returnable beverage containers will encourage recycling and bring in revenue for the state of Maine, since all unclaimed deposits are transferred to the State. Tracking the amount of bottles that are redeemed will help the State determine the success of this program and provide statistics on Maine's recycling rates. Imposing fines on persons who attempt to return containers not purchased in Maine will combat fraud.



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FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

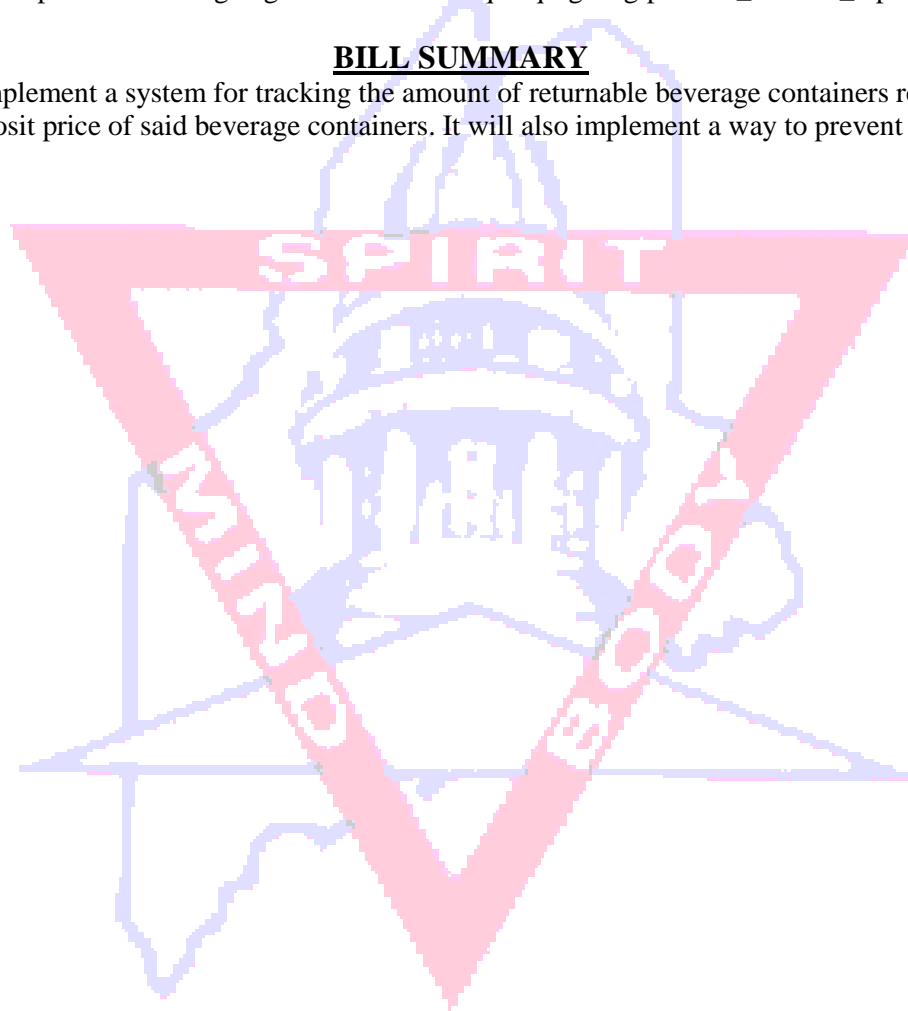
Implementing this bill will be of no cost to the state of Maine. The State will generate revenue from the unclaimed bottle deposits. In the state of Michigan, an \$8.7 million dollar escheat was collected by the state in 1995.

REFERENCES:

<http://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/38/title38sec3103.html>
<http://www.maine.gov/dep/sustainability/bottlebill/index.html>
<http://www.bottlebill.org>
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-ogl-mglpf-stutz_249882_7.pdf

BILL SUMMARY

This bill will implement a system for tracking the amount of returnable beverage containers recycled in Maine and raise the deposit price of said beverage containers. It will also implement a way to prevent fraudulent returns.





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BILL # 2017--206

Bill Sponsor: Virginia Hugo-Vidal

Bill Co-Sponsor: Olivia Paruk, Rebecca Collins

School / Club / YMCA: Gorham High School

Endorsed By: David Farrington

Referred to the committee on: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

An Act Relating To:

Banning the display of the Confederate Flag

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2017 Youth and Government Program as follows:

23. **SECTION 1:** Definition of obscenity: material that the average person, applying contemporary community
24. standards, find, taken as a whole, appeal to the prurient interest; that the work, taken as a whole, lack serious
25. literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
26. **SECTION 2:** The Confederate Flag will be categorized as a form of obscenity.
27. **SECTION 3:** The display of the Confederate Flag both in public areas and on private property will be
28. banned.
29. **SECTION 4:** The ban will not apply to it being present in text or schools for educational purposes.
30. **SECTION 5:** All Confederate Flags must be removed within one week of this bill being enacted.
31. **SECTION 6:** Refusal to remove the Confederate Flag will result in a fine of \$8,441 and one week in jail.
32. Every additional refusal will result in an extra week in jail and an additional \$1,000 fine.
33. **SECTION 7:** This bill will be enacted on November 15, 2017.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

The Confederate Flag has recently been turned into a symbol of neo-Nazis and has long been a symbol of racists and white supremacists. Maine fought for the Union and by displaying the flag of the Confederate States citizens are disrespecting Maine's glorious history, the 8,441 Mainers who died fighting for the Union, and minorities. During the Civil War Maine contributed more soldiers to the Union per capita than any other states and the 20th Maine saved the Battle of Gettysburg. The Confederate Flag can be classified as obscenity according to the definition provided by the Supreme Court case Miller vs. California (1973). Miller vs. California ruled that anything falling under 'obscenity' was unprotected by the first amendment and subject to state regulation.

JUSTIFICATION:

By banning the Confederate Flag Maine can honor its history, people-both past and present, and take a stand against racists and bigots. This bill would make Maine a more welcoming environment for those who feel threatened by the presence of the Confederate Flag. On top of a blatant disregard for history and their location, the flag is now a symbol of racism and hate-two things that have no place in Maine.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

There is limited money required to enact this bill, but it could generate thousands of dollars in revenue for the state.

REFERENCES:

http://www.pressherald.com/2011/04/10/the-fate-of-the-union_2011-04-10/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miller_v._California

BILL SUMMARY

This bill would categorize the Confederate Flag as obscenity and ban its display anywhere in Maine, with the exceptions of text and schools for educational purposes. Citizens have one week to take down their Confederate Flags. A fine of \$8,441 will be imposed.



State YMCA of Maine
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BILL # 2017-- 303

Bill Sponsor: Gov. Nathan M. Carlow

Bill Co-Sponsor: Sarah E. Champagne

School / Club / YMCA: Bonny Eagle High School

Endorsed By: Dawna Cyr

Referred to the committee on: Educational and Cultural Services

An Act Relating To:

Installing a Statewide Performance Based Teacher Salary

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2017 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1.** For the purposes of this legislation; (A) "Collective bargaining agreements" are defined as
2. contracts between a legitimately recognized union or association of classroom personnel and the Department
3. of Education of the State of Maine. (B) "Classroom personnel" are defined as licensed personnel responsible
4. solely for the instruction of students and those primarily responsible for assisting such a person in the
5. instruction of students. (C) "Performance" is defined as the level of effectiveness that has been implemented
6. and defined by the State Board of Education and the pupil progress measurements of individual regional
7. school units. (D) "Revocable tenure" is defined as non-probationary status that may be revoked after three (3)
8. consecutive academic years of decreased performance. (E) "Degree" is defined as an academic rank awarded
9. by an accredited college or university after the successful completion of a course or several courses of study.
10. (F) "403(b) pension plan" is defined as a retirement savings program sponsored by the Internal Revenue
11. Service of the United States and further described by Subsection 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.
12. **SECTION 2.** Beginning on July 1, AD 2019, all publicly funded school administrative units within the state
13. of Maine shall be represented in collective bargaining agreements by the Commissioner of Education
14. (hereinafter "the Commissioner") or the Commissioner's designee. The collective bargaining agreements
15. between the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee and the varying regional school units of the state
16. of Maine shall be consistent in nature and offer no significant variations between other agreements, however,
17. some deviations may occur when such a matter is exclusive to one or few other regional school units.
18. **SECTION 3.** The Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of
19. Administrative and Financial Services, shall develop a plan to implement statewide collective bargaining
20. agreements for classroom personnel beginning July 1, AD 2019. The course of action recommended by the
21. Department shall be designed to; (1) Permit school administrative units to maintain control over the
22. employment, management and termination of classroom personnel, (2) Include for all classroom personnel a
23. competitive compensation system based on performance, revocable tenure and degree; and (3) Include for all
24. public school teachers a series of benefits that shall include, but is not limited to; health and dental insurance,
25. partial or total tuition reimbursement and a 403(b) pension plan. Such a plan shall be submitted for legislative
26. approval no later than January 1, AD 2018.
27. **SECTION 4.** The state contribution to public education shall be raised by one-hundred million
28. (100,000,000.00) United States Dollars.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

One challenge faced by some schools is the common practice of school personnel receiving employment in rural districts with no intention on staying for long, this gives them additional experience, so that they may apply for a similar job at more wealthier schools. All of this occurs at the expense of rural districts.

Unfortunately, this practice has proved to be catastrophic to rural, less wealthy schools as they face struggles filling positions, keeping current personnel and maintaining continuity. A statewide contract would end this crisis by providing equivalent benefits and salaries to all school personnel throughout the state.



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JUSTIFICATION:

Schools throughout the state are suffering unduly over an issue that can easily be resolved, this bipartisan legislation would help ensure that students can be taught in schools that are fully staffed and by professional personnel who intend to maintain employment within their respective district.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

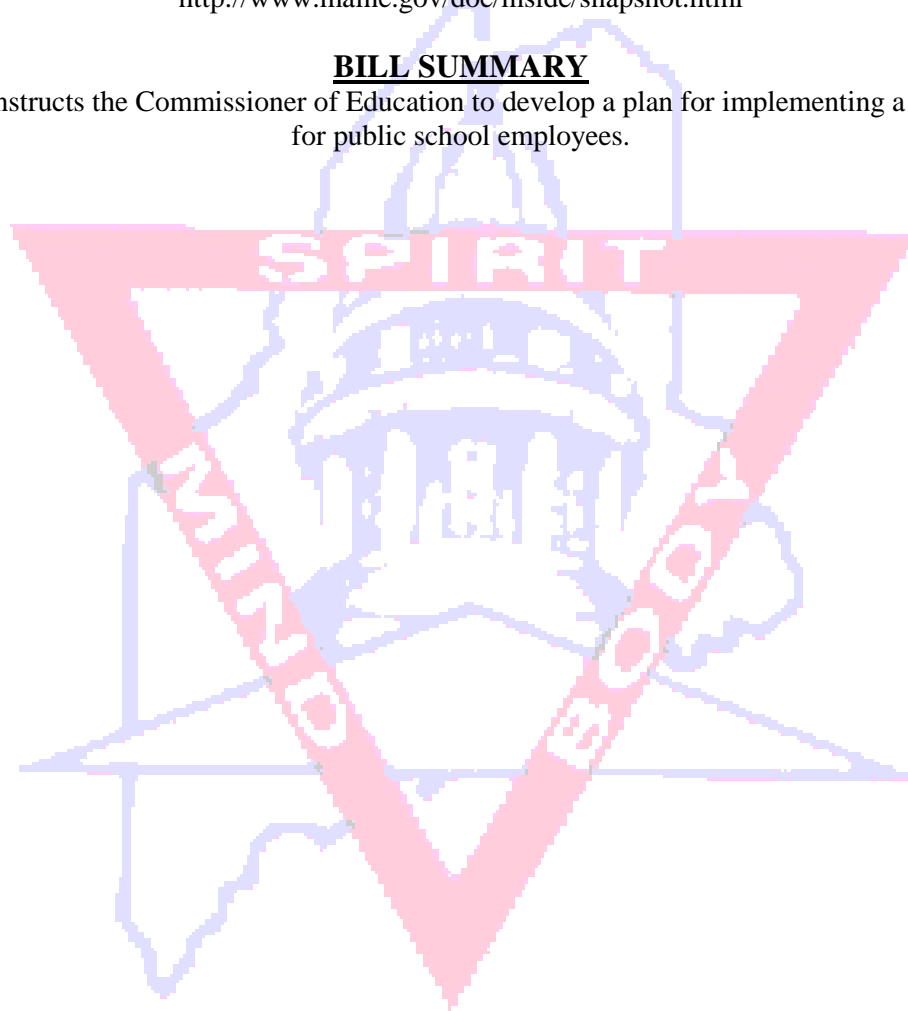
Carlow1 and Carlow5 are intertwined in the sense that all funds removed from MaineCare services are transferred to the state share of public education contributions.

REFERENCES:

<http://www.maine.gov/doe/inside/snapshot.html>

BILL SUMMARY

This legislation instructs the Commissioner of Education to develop a plan for implementing a statewide contract for public school employees.





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BILL # 2017-- 404

Bill Sponsor: Chou, Ying-Chieh

School / Club / YMCA: Machias memorial high school

Endorsed By: Susan Albee

Referred to the committee on: Energy, Utilities, and Technology

An Act Relating To:

Every public school in Maine should have at least one 3D printer

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2017 Youth and Government Program as follows:

29. Section 1: Every public school in Maine should have 3D printers that students and teachers can use.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

Today 's schools should be in line with the development of STEM education, with updated equipment.

The use of technological products can increase the students willingness to learn.

3D printers also make robotics more easily accessible .

It enables students to participate in STEM education and other relevant competition

JUSTIFICATION:

3D printers have been used in manufacturing for nearly 30 years.

and its plasticity is high and can be used for many things.

The ability to operate 3D printers can make students more competitive in the work force.

Students that get STEM education in school are more likely to get a high pay job in the future.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

Each 3D printer costs 300 dollars.

There are 168 public school in Maine.

It will cost up to 50400 dollars.

REFERENCES:

<https://www.makersempire.com/7-benefits-of-using-3d-printing-technology-in-education/>

<https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/high-school-notes/2014/07/21/3-d-printing-becomes-accessible-for-high-school-teachers>

BILL SUMMARY

This bill will improve education in Maine by providing each school with a 3D printer.



State YMCA of Maine YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT



BILL # 2017-- 512

Bill Sponsor: Sydney Thompson

Bill Co-Sponsor: Rebecca Collins, Wyatt Fullen, and Madison Boucher

School / Club / YMCA: Presque Isle High School

Endorsed By: Michael Waugh

Referred to the committee on: Health and Human Services

An Act Relating To:

An Act Relating To: Health plan coverage of elective abortions

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2017 Youth and Government Program as follows:

30. **SECTION 1:** Definition of an elective abortion: "termination of pregnancy at the mother's request for
31. reasons other than their health"
32. **Definition of a medical emergency:** "a health condition that would cause a lifelong disability or result in the
33. death of the mother"
34. **Definition of a general health plan:** "health insurance covering the cost of the insured's medical and surgical
35. expenses"
36. **Definition of a supplemental health plan:** "additional insurance that can be purchased to help pay for
37. medical expenses beyond what the general plan covers"
38. **SECTION 2:** General health plans will not cover the cost of elective abortions.
39. **SECTION 3:** Individuals will not be prevented from purchasing a separate, supplemental health plan to cover
40. the cost of the elective abortion, if it is offered by the insurer.
41. **SECTION 4:** Abortions performed in the instance of unexpected medical emergencies will remain covered
42. by a general health plan.
43. **SECTION 5:** In the cases of proven rape/incest, the abortion will remain covered by the mother's general
44. health plan.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

A Duke University study found that taxpayers are covering roughly a quarter of all abortion costs. As of 2014, 27 states and the District of Columbia did not have laws restricting insurance abortion coverage. Of these 28 places, 1,036 insurance plans covered elective abortions. The Congressional Budget office has estimated that from 2015-2024, \$726 billion will go from federal Treasury in direct subsidies for Obamacare plans. While subsidies are not supposed to be used in any way towards elective abortions, the last enrollment period indicated that 87% of 5.4 million people with plans from HealthCare.gov used some subsidies.

JUSTIFICATION:

While complications may arise throughout some women's pregnancies, most are not life-threatening to the mother.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

Implementing this bill will be of no cost to the State of Maine.

REFERENCES:

<http://www.nrlc.org/federal/ahc/>

<http://www.aul.org/2017-life-list/>

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/851/billtext/html/HB00214I.htm>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/theapothecary/2015/10/02/are-american-taxpayers-paying-for-abortion/>

BILL SUMMARY

This bill will prohibit women from using general health insurance plans to fund elective abortions.



State YMCA of Maine YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT



BILL # 2017—601

Bill Sponsor: Jamie Brown

Bill Co-Sponsor: Keegan Gentle

School / Club / YMCA: Houlton High School

Endorsed By: Tim Tweedie

Referred to the committee on: Inland Fisheries, Wildlife and Agriculture

An Act Relating To:

Prohibiting the use of reference to Native American tribes as school mascots.

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2017 Youth and Government Program as follows:

45. **SECTION 1:** School districts will no longer be permitted to use Native American cultural references as
46. emblems.
47. **SECTION 2:** References include names, symbols, or images that depict or refer to an American Indian tribe,
48. individual, custom, or tradition. The previously stated references will not be used as mascot, nickname, logo,
49. letterhead, or team names otherwise defined as emblems.
50. **SECTION 3:** Public schools that fail to comply by January 1, 2020 will lose state funding.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

This bill will work to negate off-putting Native American stereotypes that are re-enforced by schools with misrepresenting and inaccurate cultural portrayals as mascots or emblems. The inaccurate cultural portrayals lead students and spectators of the schools with such emblems to poorly perform chants or activities referring to the Native American culture while cheering for their school or team. These performances of cheering are often not historically or culturally routed, but again are reinforcements of inaccurate Native America stereotypes. Steps should be taken to provide a more culturally aware environment for everyone, but most specifically the Native American community in the State of Maine. School districts with Native American mascots have a negative effect on young students by causing a lack of social identity development and decrease in self esteem. Schools are meant to be a place of learning; not a place to develop racial insecurities.

JUSTIFICATION:

There are about seven Maine schools who still have emblems using derogatory terms relating to Native Americans. These schools have names or nicknames like "warriors" or "Indians". In attempts to show school spirit, members of the community unknowingly are offending the traditions of Native Americans. Students wear headdress that are reserved for leaders on special occasions. They paint their faces to look like stereotypical war paint, and they shout war cries at games in efforts to rally their teams on. Many Native Americans are offended by such stereotyping, and see it as racial slurs. This matter is a human rights issue. Native American are being denied their basic rights to respect. The mascots are particularly inappropriate because they shine light on the oppression that have been experience by American Indians for centuries. Since the beginning of the United States, American Indians have been depicted as bloodthirsty savages, and these cartoon character mascots only keep that perspective alive. There are currently twelve states in the United States that have enacted a bill similar to this. Let Maine be the thirteenth.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

There are no fiscal considerations

REFERENCES:

- <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/06/06/bill-banning-use-native-american-mascots-public-schools-subject-beacon-hill-hearing/IysGnukXa4tU8fAYwkUOBK/story.html>
http://sanfacon.com/mascots/schools_NE.html
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/superintendent/priorities/native-american-mascot-report.pdf>
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/190/S291>
<https://bangordailynews.com/2014/03/11/news/state/elimination-of-most-maine-school-nicknames-that-reference-american-indians-praised-by-tribal-leader/>

BILL SUMMARY

This bill will ban the use of Native American references as emblems in public schools to foster a more culturally aware environment in the community.



State YMCA of Maine
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BILL # 2017—703

Bill Sponsor: Ryan DeSanctis

Bill Co-Sponsor: Samuel Pocock

School / Club / YMCA: Gorham High School

Endorsed By: D. Farrington

Referred to the committee on: Labor, Commerce, and Economic Development

An Act Relating To:

Create a holiday the day after Super Bowl Sunday.

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2017 Youth and Government Program as follows:

34. **SECTION 1:** The Monday that immediately follows Super Bowl Sunday shall be an official state holiday.
35. State offices and public schools shall be closed.
36. **SECTION 2:** No business or private school is required to implement the holiday.
37. **SECTION 3:** Patriots Day in April shall be moved to the Monday immediately after Super Bowl Sunday.
38. **SECTION 4:** The bill will take effect for businesses immediately. It will take effect in schools for the 2018-39. 2019 school year.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

In 2016, an estimated 10.5 million Americans took the day off after Super Bowl 50, and an estimated 7.5 million arrived late to work. After Super Bowl 51 in 2017 an estimated 16.5 million people called in sick. 117.5 million Americans watched the game.

JUSTIFICATION:

Many Americans take the day after the Super Bowl off anyway, causing work productivity to suffer. If we create a day off, then it will cause less stress and anxiety for people during and after the big game. 16.5 million people called in sick in 2017 due to tiredness, as the New England Patriots came back from 28-3 deficit, to win 34-28 in overtime, against the Atlanta Falcons. Also, moving Patriots Day rather than creating a new holiday keeps the state budget in balance.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

On the Monday after the Super Bowl, it costs United States businesses over a billion dollars in lost productivity. In addition, moving Patriots Day to the day following Super Bowl Sunday, would keep the state budget at balance.

REFERENCES:

- <http://www.foxsports.com/nfl/story/super-bowl-50-workplace-productivity-monday-after-game-broncos-panthers-020416>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super_Bowl_LI
- <http://time.com/money/4206086/monday-after-super-bowl-productivity/>
- https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/morning_call/2013/02/how-much-productivity-is-really-lost.html
- <https://wtop.com/sports/2017/02/super-bowl-take-1-billion-bite-worker-productivity/>
- <http://www.phillyvoice.com/why-isnt-super-bowl-monday-holiday/>
- <http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/story/news/2017/02/03/day-after-super-bowl-16-million-stay-home-super-sick-day/97354572/>

BILL SUMMARY

This bill would give Schools and Businesses in Maine, a day off after the Super Bowl.



State YMCA of Maine
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BILL # 2017--811

Bill Sponsor: Lily Tedford

School / Club / YMCA: Maine School of Science and Mathematics

Endorsed By: Daniel Melega

Referred to the committee on: State and Local Government

An Act Relating To:

Implementing the National Popular Vote for President

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2017 Youth and Government Program as follows:

1. **SECTION 1:** Maine will enter into the interstate compact agreeing to elect the President via the national
2. popular vote.
3. **SECTION 2:** When this agreement goes into effect, Maine's presidential electors will be required to vote for
4. the winner of the national popular vote, or will be fined up to \$10,000.
5. **SECTION 3:** This agreement takes effect when states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral
6. votes have enacted this agreement in substantially the same form and the enactments by such states have
7. taken effect in each state.
8. **SECTION 4:** Until enough states have entered into the interstate National Popular Vote Compact, Maine's
9. electors will continue to follow Maine's current presidential electoral procedure.

STATEMENT OF FACT:

State winner-take-all statutes adversely affect governance. In battleground states, 7% more federal grants are received compared to spectator states. Battleground states also receive more presidential disaster declarations, more Superfund enforcement exemptions, and more No Child Left Behind law exemptions. Additionally, this winner-take-all system has allowed 4 presidential candidates throughout history who had not won the popular vote to win the electoral college. Had John Kerry won 59,393 more votes in Ohio in 2004, he would have been elected president despite President Bush's nationwide lead of over 3,000,000 votes. A shift of 214,393 votes in 2012 would have elected Mitt Romney despite President Obama's nationwide lead of almost 5,000,000 votes.

JUSTIFICATION:

This interstate compact is the most plausible way to implement a national popular vote, and has already been adopted in multiple states (11 states possessing 61% of the 270 electoral votes necessary to activate it). The national popular vote would ensure that each individual vote is weighted equally, regardless of geographic location, making our presidential elections more democratic.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

There are no financial considerations.

REFERENCES:

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0114&item=1&snum=128>

<http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/written-explanation>

BILL SUMMARY

Having Maine enter into the National Popular Vote interstate compact would help guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



State YMCA of Maine YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT



BILL # 2017--906

Bill Sponsor: Seth Hawksley

School / Club / YMCA: Central Aroostook High School

Endorsed By: Jerusha Benn

Referred to the committee on: Transportation

An Act Relating To:

Creating a Speeding Ticket Lottery

Be it enacted by the State YMCA of Maine's 2017 Youth and Government Program as follows:

10. **SECTION 1** That each fiscal year \$10,000 shall be removed from the governmental proceeds from speeding
11. fines and placed in a lottery
12. **SECTION 2** That the \$10,000 be divided into 5 prizes of \$2,000 each
13. **SECTION 3** That any Maine driver who has had his or her license for at least 2 years and has not had any
14. demerits on his or her license in the current and previous fiscal year shall be automatically placed in the
15. running for these prizes
16. **SECTION 4 Definition of demerit:** a point added to a driver's license when they are convicted of or plead
17. guilty to a moving violation
18. **SECTION 5** That any Maine driver who has not had his or her license for at least 2 years or has had any
19. demerits on his or her license in the current or previous fiscal year will not be eligible for these prizes

STATEMENT OF FACT:

The idea of a lottery for people who don't speed was tested in Stockholm, Sweden, in 2010. During the testing period many drivers stopped speeding, dropping from 32 kph (20 mph) to the legal limit of 25 kph (15.5 mph).

JUSTIFICATION:

Since 2006 the amount of speeding tickets issued has dropped significantly, partially because Maine police officers are more likely to issue warnings than tickets. This could be solved by giving drivers a positive incentive to drive the speed limit, such as being entered in a lottery for a \$2,000 prize.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

The only financial consideration of this bill is the \$10,000 each fiscal year paid out to lottery winners.

REFERENCES:

- <https://www.wired.com/2010/12/swedish-speed-camera-pays-drivers-to-slow-down/>
- <http://www.npr.org/2011/03/27/134866003/gamifying-the-system-to-create-better-behavior>
- <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/speeding>
- <http://bangordailynews.com/2015/07/23/the-point/why-are-maine-drivers-getting-fewer-speeding-tickets/>

BILL SUMMARY

In summary, the number of speeding tickets issued have dropped in recent years, many of them becoming warnings. Giving drivers a positive incentive to drive the speed limit will create a safer driving environment. A lottery should be created to reward saf