130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document **No. 732**

S.P. 284 In Senate, March 5, 2021

An Act To Refund 50 Percent of 2020 State Liquor Licensing Fees to Nonprofit Organizations

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 3, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative: DOLLOFF of Milton Township.

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Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the spread of the novel coronavirus disease referred to as COVID-19 has created a public health emergency; and

Whereas, the combined effects of the public health emergency and subsequent public health measures have negatively impacted the ability of nonprofit organizations to sell liquor for on-premises consumption as permitted by their licenses; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Refund 50% of liquor license fees. Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, a nonprofit charitable, educational, political, civic, recreational, fraternal, patriotic, religious or veterans' organization that was licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-A, chapters 41 and 43 to sell liquor for on-premises consumption on March 18, 2020 and that was not able to remain open in the year 2020 due to emergency public health restrictions may request, and is eligible to receive, a 50% refund of the initial licensure or license renewal fees it paid in the year 2020 for a license issued by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-A.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill allows nonprofit organizations that were licensed by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to sell liquor for on-premises consumption on March 18, 2020 and not able to remain open in the year 2020 due to emergency public health restrictions to request a 50% refund of the initial licensure or license renewal fees they paid for a liquor license.