

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1997

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By Mr. Sullivan of Springfield, petition of Harold J. Law for legislation to authorize the licensing and conducting of the game called "Beano" in certain cities and towns. Legal Affairs.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six.

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM IN CONNECTION WITH THE LICENSING AND CONDUCTING OF A GAME COMMONLY CALLED "BEANO" IN CERTAIN CITIES AND TOWNS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 271 of the General Laws is hereby amended  
2 by inserting after section 22A the following section:—  
3 *Section 22B.* Nothing in this chapter shall author-  
4 ize the prosecution, arrest or conviction of any person  
5 for conducting, promoting or playing, or for allowing to  
6 be conducted, promoted or played, the game commonly  
7 called beano, or substantially the same game under  
8 another name, in connection with which prizes are of-  
9 fered to be won by chance; provided, the said game of  
10 beano is conducted under a license so to do by a fraternal  
11 or religious organization or a veterans' organization char-  
12 tered by the congress of the United States.  
13 Any fraternal, religious organization or veterans' or-  
14 ganization chartered by the congress of the United States  
15 desiring to operate or conduct the game of beano within  
16 the commonwealth shall make application for a license  
17 to conduct said game to the mayor of the city or the  
18 selectmen of the town where it desires to operate. Li-  
19 censes may be revoked at the pleasure of the grantor.

20 No permit shall be granted to operate, hold or conduct  
21 beano on Sunday and shall on any week day be limited  
22 to the hours between seven-thirty P.M. and twelve mid-  
23 night. Any fraternal, religious, or veterans' organization  
24 chartered by congress licensed to conduct beano shall be  
25 limited to conducting said beano one night in each  
26 calendar week.

27 The fee for the license to operate, hold or conduct  
28 beano shall be set by the mayor of a city or the select-  
29 men of a town.

30 The fraternal, religious, or veterans' organization char-  
31 tered by the congress of the United States, holding a  
32 license to conduct beano must operate, manage and  
33 control the game by its own members; the operation of  
34 beano by any person, persons, firms or corporations  
35 under the name or guise of a fraternal, religious, or  
36 veterans' organization chartered by the congress of the  
37 United States shall be illegal and said organization and  
38 operators be subject to a fine of one thousand dollars or  
39 imprisonment for one year.

40 A license so granted shall not authorize the giving of  
41 any one prize to exceed fifty dollars in value.

42 No license shall be granted to conduct the game of  
43 beano in any place or establishment where alcoholic  
44 beverages are dispensed.

45 Any organization which fails to exercise exclusive con-  
46 trol and management of any such game called beano  
47 or which organization fails to have one of its members  
48 in good standing in full control and management of the  
49 game at all times during its operation shall be punished  
50 by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars.

51 The profits of beano, so conducted under this act,  
52 shall be the property of the organization conducting said  
53 game to be used for charitable, religious or educational  
54 purposes and shall not be distributed to the members of  
55 the organization.

56 Accurate records and books shall at all times be kept  
57 and maintained by each licensee showing the total  
58 amount of all moneys deposited by those playing, at-

59 tending or participating in said games and expenses  
60 thereof. The city or town issuing the license, or its  
61 duly authorized representatives, shall at all times have  
62 access to said records and books of any licensee for the  
63 purpose of examining and checking the same.

64 No license shall be granted under this section in any  
65 city or town within any county unless a majority of the  
66 registered voters of such county voting on the question  
67 of granting such licenses when said question was last  
68 submitted to them, as hereinafter provided, have voted  
69 in the affirmative.

70 The state secretary shall cause to be placed on the  
71 official ballot to be used in the cities and towns at the  
72 biennial state election in the year nineteen hundred and  
73 fifty-six, and in every fourth year thereafter, the fol-  
74 lowing question: — “Shall the licensing and conducting  
75 of a game commonly called ‘Beano’ be permitted in  
76 this county?” If a majority of the votes cast in a county  
77 in answer to said question are in the affirmative, such  
78 county shall be taken to have authorized the licensing  
79 and conducting of a game commonly called “Beano.”

