

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2018

Legislative Document

No. 1766

H.P. 1220

House of Representatives, January 3, 2018

An Act To Improve Marketing Efficiency in the Harness Racing Industry by Requiring Its Promotion by the State Harness Racing Commission and by Repealing the Harness Racing Promotional Board

Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WHITE of Washburn.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §263-A, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

3 **6. Promotion of harness racing.** The commission shall assist in the promotion of
4 harness racing in the State through the formation of advisory subcommittees, facilitation
5 of marketing plans and the expenditure or granting of funds.

6 **Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §285**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 401, §17, is repealed.

7 **Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §291**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 528, §46, is amended to read:

8 **§291. Harness Racing Promotional Fund share**

9 Amounts calculated as Harness Racing Promotional Fund share under section 286
10 must be paid to the Treasurer of State for deposit in the Harness Racing Promotional
11 Fund for use as provided in section ~~285~~ 299-A.

12 **Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §299-A** is enacted to read:

13 **§299-A. Harness Racing Promotional Fund**

14 **1. Fund created.** The Harness Racing Promotional Fund, referred to in this section
15 as "the fund," is established to assist with the promotion of harness racing in the State.
16 The fund consists of any money received through the commission on wagers pursuant to
17 section 286 and any contributions, grants or appropriations from private and public
18 sources. The fund, to be accounted for within the commission, must be held separate and
19 apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the
20 end of a fiscal year does not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

21 **2. Expenditures.** The commission may expend revenue or award grants from the
22 fund consistent with the purposes of this section.

23 **Sec. 5. Transfer.** The State Controller shall transfer all unexpended balances of
24 the Harness Racing Promotional Board to the Harness Racing Promotional Fund
25 established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 299-A no later than 30 days
26 following the effective date of this Act.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill adds promotion of harness racing to the existing responsibilities of the State
29 Harness Racing Commission. The bill also repeals the Harness Racing Promotional
30 Board and transfers the funds held by the board to the Harness Racing Promotional Fund,
31 which will be administered by the State Harness Racing Commission and used to
32 promote harness racing.