

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

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VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

August 2025

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LD 1188 An Act to Amend the Law Governing Facilities Approved by the State Harness Racing Commission to Sell Pari-mutuel Pools and Common Pari-mutuel Pools for Simulcast Racing

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 281 removes the statutory repeal date from the provision authorizing the State Harness Racing Commission to approve a facility for the sale of pari-mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools for simulcast races by a person licensed pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 271 to conduct harness horse racing with pari-mutuel betting.

The law provides that the State Harness Racing Commission may approve a facility already approved by the commission to sell pari-mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools for simulcast races at that facility even if the track where the races are conducted is no longer in the county where the facility is located, as long as the track location meets certain criteria. The track must be located within a county contiguous to the county where the original commercial track conducted races, may not be located within the same county as a casino and may not be located within the same municipality as an off-track betting facility or in a municipality contiguous to a municipality with an off-track betting facility.

The law also provides that the State Harness Racing Commission may provisionally approve a facility that has applied for approval from the municipal officers of the municipality in which the facility is located if that application is awaiting a decision. Provisional approval is valid only through December 31, 2025, or until such time as municipal approval is received or denied, whichever is sooner. A facility operating under provisional approval must cease all operations related to the provisional approval on the date the facility's application for municipal approval is denied or on December 31, 2025, whichever occurs first.

Public Law 2025, chapter 281 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 12, 2025.

LD 1456 An Act to Expand the Number of On-premises Retail Liquor Licenses a Liquor Manufacturer May Be Issued

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 87 expands from one to three the number of on-premises retail liquor licensees a person or persons who hold a majority ownership interest in a manufacturing licensee may hold no less than a majority ownership interest in. The on-premises retail locations may be at the manufacturing facility or other locations. If a person or persons hold a majority ownership interest in two or more manufacturing licensees that collectively manufacture at least 1,000 barrels per year, the person or persons may hold no less than a majority ownership interest in up to six on-premises retail licensees. The law limits a person or persons who hold a majority ownership interest in one or more manufacturing licensees to holding an ownership interest in no more than