

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 10, 1969

E. B. Stevens, Exec. Sec.

Maine Horse Racing Commission

Jerome S. Matus, Assistant

Attorney General

Official Time Designation for Harness Horse Races or Meets

SYLLABUS:

The official time designation within this State is set forth in 1 M.R.S.A. § 151. A harness horse race or meet should cease on or before 12 o'clock midnight on a Saturday as per the time designation of 1 M.R.S.A. § 151.

FACTS:

You have asked for a specific ruling as to the official time that harness horse racing should cease on Saturday night.

QUESTION:

What is the official time that harness horse racing should cease on Saturday night?

ANSWER:

See Opinion.

OPINION:

8 M.R.S.A. § 268 provides: "The commission shall make rules and regulations for the holding, conducting and operating of all harness horse races or meets for public exhibition held in this State and for the operation of race tracks on which any such race or meet is held. No such race or meet shall be held on Sunday. No part of this chapter shall be construed to apply to any racing whatever except harness horse races." (Emphasis supplied)

1 M.R.S.A. § 151 establishes time designations within this jurisdiction and reads as follows:

"Within this State the standard time shall be that which is known and designated by the federal statute as 'United States Eastern Standard Time.'

"At 2 o'clock ante-meridian of the last Sunday in April of each year, the standard time in this State shall be advanced one hour, and at 2 o'clock ante-meridian of the last Sunday in October of each year the standard time in this State, by the retarding of one hour, shall be made to coincide with the mean astronomical time of the degree of longitude governing the zone wherein the State is situated, the standard official time of which is described as United States Eastern Standard Time, so that between the last Sunday of April at 2 o'clock ante-meridian and the last Sunday in October at 2 o'clock ante-meridian in each year the standard time in this State shall be one hour in advance of the United States Eastern Standard Time and said time shall be known as 'Eastern Daylight Time.' "

The statute is controlling in respect to S.M.R.S.A. § 268. Thus, when Eastern Daylight Time is in effect in the State of Maine no harness horse race or meet may be conducted after 12 o'clock midnight Saturday, Eastern Daylight Time. When United States Eastern Standard Time is in effect, no harness horse race or meet may be conducted after 12 o'clock midnight Saturday, United States Eastern Standard Time.

Jerome S. Matus
Assistant Attorney General

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