

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 18

H. P. 18

Office of the Clerk of the House

Filed December 4, 1972 under Joint Rule 6 by Mr. Kelleher of Bangor. To be printed and delivered to the House of Representatives of the 106th Legislature.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Kelleher of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT to Establish a Colt Stake Program for Maine Standard Bred Horses.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 7, § 62-A, additional. Title 7 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 62-A, to read as follows:

§ 62-A. Colt stake stipend

There shall be appropriated annually from the General Fund the sum of \$35,000 to aid and encourage agricultural society and harness racing licensees to conduct races for 2 and 3-year-old Maine standard bred colts and fillies. The commission shall award said colt stake stipend to each harness racing licensee which conducts such races for payment to match the contribution towards the purse, except for fees made by the licensee for each such race but not exceeding \$2,000 for each such race. No colt or filly shall be eligible to race in this program unless sired by a stallion standing full season in Maine or unless it is the product of a wholly owned Maine resident mare bred to a stallion standing within one of the other New England states, providing the mare returns to Maine for 6 months. An owner who misrepresents the antecedents of a colt or filly and enters in any colt stake race a colt or filly which is ineligible under this section or under rules and regulations prescribed by the commission shall forfeit any purse won and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both. Nomination, starting and stallion fees shall be determined by the commission. Nomination fees shall be kept separate for pacers and trotters and shall be paid in equal amounts to all licensees par-

ticipating in this program. These fees shall be paid directly to the licensee and shall also be added to the purses paid under this program. Stallion fees shall be used for promotion of this program under the direction of the commission. The commission may make all rules and regulations necessary to carry out this program after due notice and public hearing.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 8, § 281, repealed and replaced. Section 281 of Title 8 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 281. Standard bred horses

The commission shall encourage and promote the breeding of a strain of Maine standard bred horses, including the establishment of a colt stake program for 2 and 3-year-old colts and fillies, and rules and regulations to conduct the same, after due notice and hearing.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is that there be established, under supervision of the Harness Racing Commission, a program of 2 and 3-year-old colt races to stimulate efforts to maintain a breeding program in Maine.

The lack of a colt stake program in Maine has caused a steady decline of the breeding industry and birth of colts in our State.

At the present time, Maine owners are shipping brood mares out of state for breeding in order that colts be eligible for colt stake races in other states.

In order to reverse this trend, it is essential that a colt stake stipend of \$35,000 be established.