

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 683

H. P. 518

House of Representatives, February 7, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Kelleher of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT Creating a Standardbred Breeders and Owners Development
Fund of Maine.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 7, c. 9, additional. Title 7 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 9 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 9

SIRE STAKES PROGRAM

§ 201. Program

There is established in the State of Maine a Sire Stakes Program for standardbred horses, bred in the State of Maine and the product of a registered Maine stallion, registered with the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of Maine as such and listed in their registry books.

Those horses eligible to race under said sire stakes program shall be any foal of any registered Maine stallion standing at a Maine breeding farm and either owned by a resident of the State of Maine or leased by a resident thereof for a period of no less than 2 years to stand the full season on a Maine breeding farm. A copy of any such lease shall be filed with the United States Trotting Association, the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of Maine and the Maine Racing Commission.

§ 202. Board of trustees

The said sire stakes program shall be administered by a board of trustees consisting of 5 members, 4 appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall

be a representative of the Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of Maine, one representing the Maine Fair Association, one representing extended race meets and one representing racing interests generally and the Commissioner of Agriculture. Of members first appointed, the term of office of the member of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association shall be for 4 years, the term of office for the member representing the Maine Fair Association shall be for 3 years, the term of office for the member representing extended race meets shall be for 2 years and the term of office for the member representing general racing interests shall be for one year. Thereafter, appointments shall be for terms of 4 years. No member of the board of trustees shall be compensated for his services. Reasonable travel and other expenses incurred in connection with duties as members of the board may be paid.

§ 203. —duties

The board of trustees is authorized to do all that is necessary for the proper administration of the said Sire Stakes Program and shall prepare, issue and promulgate rules and regulations providing that:

1. Agreements. Said trustees shall be authorized to enter into agreements with other New England states in conducting sire stakes programs, said agreement to be approved by the Office of the Attorney General;
2. Prizes. Classes and divisions of races, eligibility of horses and owners therefor and prizes and awards to be awarded;
3. Fees. Nominating, sustaining and entry fees for horses and races;
4. Temporary programs. Such temporary programs including eligibility of horses, breeding and other matters as may be necessary to make the sire stakes program operable as soon as possible;
5. Registration. Registration and certification of Maine stallions, mares bred to such stallions and foals produced thereby;
6. Other. Such other matters as the board determines to be necessary and appropriate for the proper administration and implementation of the sire stakes program.

§ 204. Administration

The funds for the sire stakes program and the nominating, sustaining and entry fees provided for shall be administered by the Department of Agriculture by deposit in a trust account entitled Sire Stakes Fund. All disbursements therefrom for the payment of purses and awards, cost of administration, reimbursement of expenses of members of the board of trustees and any other appropriate expenses shall be made by the Commissioner of Agriculture or his designee. A report shall be prepared and filed annually by the commissioner with the Harness Racing Commission setting forth an itemization of all deposits to and expenditures from said fund.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There shall be appropriated the sum of \$50,000 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the title.