

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1222

6
7 H.P. 865

House of Representatives, April 9, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Agriculture suggested and ordered
9 printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative McGowan of Canaan.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Jacques of Waterville and Representative
Michaud of Medway.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Compensate Associations Conducting
18 Winter Harness Racing Meets.
19

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

22 § MRSA §275, as amended by PL 1981, c. 705, Pt.
23 Q, §3, is further amended to read:

24 §275. Taxes

25 On the effective date of this paragraph each per-
26 son, association or corporation licensed to conduct a
27 race meet under this chapter shall pay to the Treas-
28 urer of State, to be credited to the General Fund of
29 the State, a sum equal to .70% of the total contribu-
30 tions of regular wagers and 3.80% of the total con-
31 tributions of exotic wagers to all pari-mutuel pools
32 conducted or made at any race or race meet licensed
33 under this chapter. Beginning January 1, 1983, each
34 Each person, association or corporation licensed to
35 conduct a race meet under this chapter shall pay to

1 the Treasurer of State, to be credited to the General
2 Fund of the State, a sum equal to .50% of the total
3 contributions of regular wagers and 2.27% of the to-
4 tal contributions of exotic wagers to all pari-mutuel
5 pools conducted or made during the months of April
6 through October, but only a sum equal to .50% of the
7 total contributions of regular wagers and .50% of the
8 total contributions of exotic wagers to all
9 pari-mutuel pools during the months of November
10 through March of any year, at any race or race meet
11 licensed under this chapter. Each licensee shall
12 calculate on an annual basis the difference between
13 the sum paid by him pursuant to this paragraph, as it
14 then existed, for calendar year 1981 and the sum paid
15 by him pursuant to this paragraph for each succeeding
16 calendar year. One-half of this difference shall be
17 used for the purpose of supplementing purse money.

18 A sum equal to 1% of the total contributions on
19 regular wagers and a sum equal to 1% of the total
20 contributions on exotic wagers on all pari-mutuel
21 pools conducted or made at any race or race meet li-
22 censed under this chapter shall be paid and returned
23 to the licensees for the purpose of supplementing
24 purse money. A sum equal to 1 1/2% of the total con-
25 tributions on exotic wagers on all pari-mutuel pools
26 conducted or made at any race or race meet licensed
27 under this chapter shall be retained by the licensee
28 and shall be added to purse money. This sum shall be
29 divided equally among the licensees in the proportion
30 that the number of racing days of a licensee granted
31 by the commission bears to the total number of racing
32 days granted in any one year by the commission. Pay-
33 ments shall be made to said licensees by the end of
34 the calendar year.

35 A sum equal to 1 1/2% of the tax on exotic wagers
36 on all pari-mutuel pools conducted or made at any
37 race or race meet licensed under this chapter shall
38 be retained by the licensees.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The holding of harness racing meets throughout
3 the year is essential to the racing industry.
4 Year-round racing will generate additional income for
5 participants, including drivers, officials and the
6 many other persons performing services in connection
7 with the harness racing industry and foster increased
8 employment of persons working in or otherwise affili-
9 ated with the racing industry. In many cases, such
10 income is necessary to enable the persons to support
11 their families. Racing the entire year will also
12 help provide for the large expenses for care and
13 maintenance of race horses.

14 Snowplowing and heating expenses during deep win-
15 ter discourages capital improvements and deters the
16 tracks from holding race meets during the winter sea-
17 son. This bill will permit racing associations to
18 retain the additional amounts necessary to cover the
19 substantial expenses such associations would incur by
20 racing during these months. Although the General
21 Fund will be reduced somewhat, the Sire Stakes Fund,
22 provided for in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8,
23 section 281, relating to the promotion and encourage-
24 ment of a strain of Maine standardbred horses, the
25 amount credited to the Stipend Fund, provided by the
26 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 62, relating
27 to agricultural societies, and purse supplements, re-
28 lating to amounts accruing to the drivers, will be
29 substantially increased, in amounts far greater than
30 this reduction to the General Fund, by reason of the
31 increased racing dates that will be made possible by
32 this bill. In sum, this bill will enable racing as-
33 sociations to operate profitably and supply a means
34 of livelihood to persons employed in the pari-mutuel
35 industry.

36 The General Fund will be reduced by approximately
37 \$45,000 annually.

38

1068012885