

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)
2 (After Deadline)
3 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
4

5 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
6

7 Legislative Document

No. 1557

8
9 H.P. 1068

House of Representatives, May 17, 1985

10 Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council
11 pursuant to Joint Rule 17.

12 On Motion of Representative Reeves of Pittston, referred to the
Committee on Agriculture. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

13 Presented by Representative McCollister of Canton.
14

15 STATE OF MAINE
16

17 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
18 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE

19 AN ACT to Limit Pari-mutuel Wagering to
20 Agricultural Fairs.
21

22 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
23 lature do not become effective until 90 days after
24 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

25 Whereas, the several race tracks and agricultural
26 fair associations in the State will soon begin to
27 plan and conduct harness racing events; and

28 Whereas, this legislation will affect the inter-
29 ests of those associations and this legislation must
30 be enacted as emergency legislation in order to apply
31 to the upcoming fair season; and

32 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
33 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
34 the Constitution of Maine and require the following

1 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
2 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
3 therefore,

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

6 8 MRSA §274, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1981, c.
7 705, Pt. Q, §2, is amended to read:

8 1. Sale of pari-mutuel pools. Within the enclo-
9 sure of any race track where a race or race meet li-
10 icensed and conducted under this chapter is held, but
11 not elsewhere, the sale of pari-mutuel pools by the
12 licensee, under such rules as may be prescribed by
13 the commission, is permitted and authorized. The sale
14 of pari-mutuel pools may be conducted only by an ag-
15 ricultural fair association licensed pursuant to this
16 chapter. Any such sale is authorized only within the
17 enclosure of a race track where a race or race meet
18 licensed and conducted under this chapter is held and
19 under such rules as the commission may prescribe. No
20 other form of wagering except as authorized by this
21 section may be conducted by any licensee under this
22 chapter. Commissions on pools of regular wagers other
23 than exotic wagers shall not in any event or at any
24 track exceed 16% of each dollar wagered, and commis-
25 sions on pools of exotic wagers shall not in any
26 event or at any track exceed 25% of each dollar
27 wagered, plus the odd cents of all redistribution to
28 be based on each dollar wagered, whether regular
29 wagers or exotic wagers, exceeding a sum equal to the
30 next lowest multiple of 10, known as "breakage,"
31 which breakage shall be retained by the licensee.
32 For the purpose of this chapter, "exotic wagers"
33 means those in which the bettor selects 2 or more
34 horses in one or more races in a single wager. The
35 maximum shall include the tax on regular wagers and
36 the tax on exotic wagers prescribed in section 275.

37 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency
38 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect
39 when approved.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to limit harness racing wagering to agricultural fair associations only. Nonagricultural harness racing wagering appears to be cutting into possible revenues of the State Lottery. The State Lottery returns more funds to the General Fund than does harness racing.

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