

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2692

H.P. 1990 House of Representatives, September 15, 1988

Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

Cosponsored by Representatives MCGOWAN of Canaan,
ALIBERTI of Lewiston, and Senator COLLINS of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT

1 AN ACT Relating to Horse Racing and Racing
2 Facilities.
3

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

6 Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §268, as repealed and replaced
7 by PL 1975, c. 309, is amended by adding at the end a
8 new paragraph to read:

1 The commission shall make rules allowing
2 interstate simulcasting at a licensee's race track
3 during any regular meeting.

4 Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §275, first ¶, as amended by PL
5 1987, c. 759, §5, is further amended to read:

6 Beginning January 1, 1983, each person,
7 association or corporation licensed to conduct a race
8 meet under this chapter shall pay to the Treasurer of
9 State, to be credited to the General Fund of the
10 State, a sum equal to .50% of the total contributions
11 of regular wagers and 2.27% of the total contributions
12 of exotic wagers to all pari-mutuel pools conducted or
13 made at any race or race meet licensed under this
14 chapter. If the total of the regular and exotic
15 wagers exceeds \$37,000,000 for any calendar year, 72%
16 of the revenue credited to the General Fund under this
17 section attributable to this excess shall be returned
18 by the Treasurer of State to commercial meet
19 licensees. As used in this chapter, the term
20 "commercial meet" means any meeting where harness
21 racing is held with an annual total of more than 25
22 racing days duration with pari-mutuel wagering. This
23 payment shall be divided in the proportion that the
24 contributors of regular and exotic wagers of
25 pari-mutuel pools made or conducted at the commercial
26 meets of each licensee during the calendar year bear
27 to the total contributions of regular and exotic
28 wagers to pari-mutuel pools made or conducted at the
29 commercial meets of all licensees during that calendar
30 year. Licensees sharing in this distribution shall
31 use 1/2 of the funds so received for the purpose of
32 supplementing purse money. The other 1/2 of this
33 distribution is to be used by the commercial licensees
34 for improving its their racing facilities for the
35 benefit of the public, horse owners, horsemen and
36 horsewomen, and to increase the revenue to the State
37 from the increase in pari-mutuel wagering resulting
38 from such improvements. For the purpose of this
39 section, "improvements" means the amount paid out for
40 new buildings or for permanent improvements made to
41 improve the facilities utilized by the licensee for
42 conduct of its racing meetings; or the amount expended
43 in restoring property or in improving the facility or

1 any part of the facility which results in the addition
2 or replacement of a fixed asset. In general, the
3 amounts referred to as improvements include amounts
4 paid which add to the value, improve or substantially
5 prolong the useful life of the race track utilized by
6 the licensee for the conduct of its racing meeting.
7 Amounts paid or incurred for repairs and maintenance
8 of property, interest expense or lease payments in
9 connection with the capital improvements are not
10 improvements within the meaning of this section. In
11 addition, 9% of the revenue credited to the General
12 Fund under this section attributable to this excess
13 shall be distributed to the stipend fund provided by
14 Title 7, section 62. Further, 9% of the revenue
15 credited to the General Fund under this section
16 attributable to this excess shall be paid to the
17 commission to be credited to the Sire Stakes Fund,
18 provided in section 281. Each licensee shall
19 calculate on an annual basis the difference between
20 the sum paid by him pursuant to this paragraph, as it
21 then existed, for calendar year 1981 and the sum paid
22 by him pursuant to this paragraph for calendar year
23 1987. One-half of this difference shall be used for
24 the purpose of supplementing purse money. A sum
25 equal to 1.550% of the total contributions on exotic
26 wagers and .185% of the total contributions on regular
27 wagers on all pari-mutuel pools conducted or made at
28 any race or race meet licensed under this chapter
29 shall be retained by the licensee and added to purse
30 money.

31 STATEMENT OF FACT

32 The purposes of this bill are to:

33 1. Require the State Harness Racing Commission to
34 establish rules allowing for interstate simulcasting;
35 and

36 2. Provide a new mechanism to allow licensees to
37 retain certain percentages of wagers to supplement
38 purse money.

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