

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 337

H.P. 246

House of Representatives, February 5, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

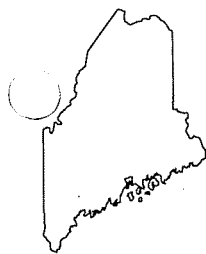
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative TARDY of Palmyra.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

**An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Horsemen's Purse Accounts
and Racetrack Improvements.**



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

2
4 8 MRSA §275, as amended by PL 1989, c. 787, Pt. A, §3, is
further amended to read:

6 §275. Taxes

8 ~~Beginning January 1, 1983, each~~ Each person, association or
10 corporation licensed to conduct a race meet under this chapter
shall pay to the Treasurer of State, to be credited to the
12 General Fund of the State, a sum equal to .50% of the total
contributions of regular wagers and 2.27% of the total
14 contributions of exotic wagers to all pari-mutuel pools conducted
or made at any race or race meet licensed under this chapter. If
16 the total of the regular and exotic wagers exceeds ~~\$37,000,000~~
\$30,000,000 for any calendar year, 72% of the revenue credited to
18 the General Fund under this section attributable to this excess
shall must be returned by the Treasurer of State to commercial
20 meet licensees. As used in this chapter, the term "commercial
meet" means any meeting where harness racing is held with an
22 annual total of more than 25 racing days duration with
pari-mutuel wagering. This payment shall must be divided in the
24 proportion that the contributors of regular and exotic wagers of
pari-mutuel pools made or conducted at the commercial meets of
26 each licensee during the calendar year bear to the total
contributions of regular and exotic wagers to pari-mutuel pools
28 made or conducted at the commercial meets of all licensees during
that calendar year. Licensees sharing in this distribution shall
30 use 1/2 of the funds so received for the purpose of supplementing
purse money. The other 1/2 of this distribution is to be used by
32 the commercial licensees for improving their racing facilities
for the benefit of the public, horse owners, horsemen and
34 horsewomen, and to increase the revenue to the State from the
increase in pari-mutuel wagering resulting from such
36 improvements. For the purpose of this section, "improvements"
means the amount paid out for new buildings or for permanent
38 improvements made to improve the facilities utilized by the
licensee for conduct of its racing meetings; or the amount
40 expended in restoring property or in improving the facility or
any part of the facility which results in the addition or
42 replacement of a fixed asset. In general, the amounts referred
to as improvements include amounts paid which add to the value,
44 improve or substantially prolong the useful life of the race
track utilized by the licensee for the conduct of its racing
46 meeting. Amounts paid or incurred for repairs and maintenance of
property, interest expense or lease payments in connection with
48 the capital improvements are not improvements within the meaning
of this section. In addition, 9% of the revenue credited to the
50 General Fund under this section attributable to this excess shall
must be distributed to the stipend fund provided by Title 7,
section 62. Further, 9% of the revenue credited to the General
52 Fund under this section attributable to this excess shall must be

2 paid to the commission to be credited to the Sire Stakes Fund,
3 provided in section 281. A sum equal to 1.550% of the total
4 contributions on exotic wagers and .185% of the total
5 contributions on regular wagers on all pari-mutuel pools
6 conducted or made at any race or race meet licensed under this
chapter shall must be retained by the licensee and added to purse
money.

8
9 A sum equal to 1% of the total contributions on regular
10 wagers and a sum equal to 1% of the total contributions on exotic
11 wagers on all pari-mutuel pools conducted or made at any race or
12 race meet licensed under this chapter must be paid and returned
to the licensees for the purpose of supplementing purse money.
13 This sum must be divided equally among the licensees in the
14 proportion that the number of racing days of a licensee granted
15 by the commission and actually raced bears to the total number of
16 racing days granted in any one year by the commission and
17 actually raced by licensees. Payments are made to these licensees
18 by the end of the calendar year. A sum equal to 1.797% of the
19 total contributions on exotic wagers and .348% of the total
20 contributions on regular wagers on all pari-mutuel pools
21 conducted or made at any race or race meet licensed under this
22 chapter must be retained by the licensee and added to purse
23 money. ~~Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, the~~
24 ~~Treasurer of State shall credit \$3,380 of the amount received~~
25 ~~under this section in fiscal year 1989-90 to the Legislative~~
26 ~~Account to provide funding for a study of the harness racing~~
27 ~~industry.~~

28
29 A sum equal to 1 1/2% of the tax on exotic wagers on all
30 pari-mutuel pools conducted or made at any race or race meet
31 licensed under this chapter shall must be retained by the
32 licensees.

34 35 36 STATEMENT OF FACT

37 This bill lowers the threshold at which excess revenue
38 generated from regular and exotic wagers must be returned to
39 commercial meet licensees by the Treasurer of State. This
40 decreased threshold is due to the closing of a racetrack in 1989,
41 making the present \$37,000,000 threshold no longer realistic.
42 One half of the returned funds is used to supplement horsemen's
43 purse money and 1/2 is used for the improvement of racing
44 facilities.