

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1318, L.D. 1868, Bill, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Harness Racing Task Force"

Amend the bill in section 6 in the first line (page 3, line 14 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "to 263-C" and inserting in its place the following: 'and 263-B'

Further amend the bill in section 6 by striking out all of that part designated "\$263-C."

Further amend the bill in section 24 by striking out all of subsection 13 and inserting in its place the following:

'13. Conditions. The commission is authorized to impose conditions on a license if one or more of the criteria established in this section are not met at the time the license is issued and the licensee is able to comply with the conditions within a specified time period during the licensing year.'

Further amend the bill in section 46 in that part designated "\$285." by inserting after subsection 12 the following:

'13. Dissolution. Upon dissolution of the board by the Legislature, all assets of the board, including property, equipment and unexpended cash balances derived from section 291, must be distributed by the Legislature and used for the purposes of promoting harness racing in the State. Prior to distributing the assets of the board, the Legislature must review recommendations from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over legal affairs regarding the distribution of assets.'

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2 Further amend the bill in section 46 in that part designated
3 "§286." in subsection 2 in the first 2 lines (page 19, lines 26
4 and 27 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "with
5 "noncommingled pools" and in the 4th line (page 19, line 29 in
6 L.D.) by striking out the following: "with noncommingled pools"

8 Further amend the bill in section 46 in that part designated
9 "§286." in subsection 3 in the first line (page 20, line 19 in
10 L.D.) by striking out the following: "with noncommingled pools"
11 and in the 2nd and 3rd lines (page 20, lines 20 and 21 in L.D.)
12 by striking out the following: "with noncommingled pools"

14 Further amend the bill in section 46 in that part designated
15 "§287." in subsection 1 in the 5th line (page 24, line 38 in
16 L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$37,000,000" and inserting
17 in its place the following: '\$33,500,000'

18 Further amend the bill in section 46 in that part designated
19 "§287." in subsection 2 in the 4th line (page 25, line 47 in
20 L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$37,000,000" and inserting
21 in its place the following: '\$33,500,000'

22 Further amend the bill in section 46 in that part designated
23 "§287." in subsection 3 in the 3rd line (page 25, line 16 in
24 L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$37,000,000" and inserting
25 in its place the following: '\$33,500,000'

26 Further amend the bill in section 46 in that part designated
27 "§287." in subsection 4 in the 3rd line (page 25, line 22 in
28 L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$37,000,000" and inserting
29 in its place the following: '\$33,500,000'

30 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
31 summary the following:

32
33 **'Sec. 49. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from
34 Other Special Revenue to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1997-98	1998-99
40 AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL		
42 RESOURCES		
44 State Harness Racing Commission		
45 All Other	(\$205,955)	(\$210,790)
46 Deallocation funds to reflect		
47 the establishment of the		
48 Harness Racing Promotional		

2 Board as a public
instrumentality.

4 **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES**

6 **TOTAL** (\$205,955) (\$210,750)

8
10 **HARNESS RACING PROMOTIONAL
BOARD**

12 **Harness Racing Promotional Board**

14 All Other \$205,955 \$210,750

16 Allocates funds to reflect
18 the establishment of the
Harness Racing Promotional
20 Board as a public
instrumentality.

22 **HARNESS RACING PROMOTIONAL
BOARD**

24 **TOTAL** \$205,955 \$210,790

26 **TOTAL ALLOCATIONS** \$0 \$0'

28 Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any
nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read
30 consecutively.

32 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
summary the following:

34
36 **FISCAL NOTE**

38 **1997-98** **1998-99**

40 **REVENUES**

42 General Fund \$1,500 \$1,500

44 Authorizing license fees for off-track betting facilities
will increase annual General Fund revenue by \$1,500 beginning in
46 fiscal year 1997-98.

48 Establishing the Harness Racing Promotional Board as a
public instrumentality will require initial Other Special Revenue
50 allocations of \$205,955 and \$210,790 in fiscal years 1997-98 and

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1998-99, respectively. To properly reflect the removal of the board from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the department will require equivalent deallocations. In addition, the board will be collecting dedicated revenues in amounts which are equal to the allocations and the department will experience equivalent losses of dedicated revenues.

The State Harness Racing Commission within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources will incur some minor additional costs to adopt certain rules pertaining to harness racing. These costs can be absorbed within the commission's existing budgeted resources.

The additional costs associated with providing any additional legal services to the Harness Racing Commission can be absorbed by the Department of the Attorney General utilizing existing budgeted resources.

This bill may increase prosecutions for Class E crimes. If a jail sentence is imposed, the additional costs to the counties are estimated to be \$83.78 per day per prisoner. These costs are not reimbursed by the State. The number of prosecutions that may result in a jail sentence and the resulting costs to the county jail system are expected to be insignificant.

The additional workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department. The collection of additional fines may increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

SUMMARY

This amendment does the following:

1. Removes the creation of the executive director position. The position is dealt with in Legislative Document 1865;
2. Clarifies the conditional license provision, by specifying that any conditions must be in accordance with the criteria established in that section;
3. It returns the cap on total wagers above which the General Fund share is divided among the commercial meet account, the Sire Stakes Fund and the Stipend Fund back to the amount in current law, which is \$33,500,000. The bill raised the cap to \$37,000,000; and

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2 4. Clarifies how assets are to be distributed if the Harness
Racing Promotional Board were to cease to exist.

4 This amendment also adds an appropriation section and a
6 fiscal note to the bill.

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