



119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1438

S.P. 478

In Senate, February 23, 1999

An Act to Allow for Expeditious Improvements to Commercial Tracks.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Buen

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAGGETT of Kennebec.

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

Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §287, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 528, §46, is amended to read:

6 2. Commercial meet account. The Treasurer of State shall deposit in a commercial meet account 72% of the revenue credited to the General Fund under this section that is attributable to 8 amounts in excess of \$35,000,000. This account must be divided in the proportion that the contributions of regular and exotic 10 wagers of pari-mutuel pools on live racing made or conducted at the commercial meets of each licensee during the calendar year 12 bear to the total contributions of regular and exotic wagers to pari-mutuel pools on live racing made or conducted at the 14 commercial meets of all licensees during that calendar year. Licensees sharing in this distribution shall use 1/2 of the funds 16 received for the purpose of supplementing purse money. The other 18 1/2 of this distribution must be paid to the commercial licensees as reimbursement for improvements made to their racing facilities in the calendar year during which the funds are generated or 20 To receive reimbursement, commercial during any prior year. submit plans improvements 22 licensees must for the to the commission and receive approval from the commission prior to making the improvements, and the commission must verify that the 24 approved improvements have been made.

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §287, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

- 7. Interim payments to commercial tracks. If during the 30 course of any calendar year the commission finds that wagers placed at facilities licensed under this chapter for the year are 32 likely to exceed \$35,000,000, it may, if reasonably necessary for improvements to be effected expeditiously, direct the Treasurer of State to make interim payments to a commercial track in 34 amounts as the commission finds the commercial track is likely to 36 be entitled to receive under this section. If a commercial track receives interim payments under this subsection that exceed the 38 total amount the commercial track is entitled to receive for the calendar year, the Treasurer of State shall reimburse the General 40 Fund for this excess by retaining money otherwise due to that commercial track pursuant to section 295.
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SUMMARY

46 This bill allows for interim payments to persons licensed to conduct pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing from the fund into 48 which is deposited a portion of the revenue credited to the General Fund that is attributable to total wagers in excess of \$35,000,000. It also allows commercial tracks to accumulate the balance in their share of the fund from year to year, thereby allowing tracks to fund large capital improvements.