

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1544

DATE: 4-3-00

(Filing No. H-1029)

MINORITY
LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1097, L.D. 1544, Bill, "An Act to Study the Effectiveness of Harness Racing Promotions"

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Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

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'An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Harness Racing Promotion Board'

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Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

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

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Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §285, sub-§§7 and 10, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 528, §46 and affected by §47, are amended to read:

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7. Executive director; staff. The board may appoint an executive director who is the board's chief administrative officer and serves at the pleasure of the board. The executive director may employ, as the board directs, additional staff who serve at the pleasure of the executive director. The salary of the executive director and other staff of the board must be determined by the board and paid by funds raised through donations and sponsorship. The Harness Racing Promotional Fund may not be used to pay the salary of the executive director. The

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

board may delegate to its staff the power to execute the board's policies and programs, subject to the board's oversight.

10. Fund created. The Harness Racing Promotional Fund is established to ~~carry out the purposes of this section~~ promote the harness racing industry in the State. ~~The fund may not be used to pay for the administration of the board or the expenses of its members.~~ The fund consists of all amounts dedicated to it in section 291 and all other funds donated to or otherwise obtained by the board for use of the board. Money in the fund is subject to allocation by the Legislature. Unexpended balances in the fund at the end of the fiscal year may not lapse, but must be carried forward to be used for the same purposes.

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §285, sub-§12, ¶¶B and C, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 735, §8, are amended to read:

B. A review of the operations of the board, including a summary of income and expenses of the Harness Racing Promotional Fund and improvement to the economic condition of the harness racing industry in the State; and

C. A discussion of the progress toward meeting the goals of subsection 6, ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §285, sub-§12, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. A marketing plan based on the board's statutory duties.

Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §285, sub-§13, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 528, §46 and affected by §47, is amended to read:

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 commission and used for the purposes of promoting harness racing in the State. Prior to distributing the assets of the board, ~~the Legislature must review the commission shall submit~~ recommendations ~~from~~ to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over legal affairs regarding the distribution of assets.

Sec. 5. 8 MRSA §285, sub-§14 is enacted to read:

14. Repeal. This section is repealed June 3, 2001.

Sec. 6. Distribution of Harness Racing Promotion Board's share of handle. Following receipt of the Harness Racing Promotion Board's annual report as provided by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 285, subsection 12 and prior to the

board's dissolution as provided by Title 8, section 285,
subsection 13, the Legislature shall make provisions to
distribute the board's share of the handle under Title 8, section
286.'

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

FISCAL NOTE

Repealing the Harness Racing Promotion Board and the Harness
Racing Promotional Fund on June 3, 2001 will result in a minor
savings of budgeted expenditures and a minor loss of budgeted
revenues. The amounts can not be determined at this time.

The value of any assets resulting from the future repeal of
the Harness Racing Promotion Board which are to be distributed by
the State Harness Racing Commission can not be determined at this
time.

The Harness Racing Promotion Board will incur some minor
additional costs to develop a marketing plan. These costs can be
absorbed within the board's existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

This amendment changes current law by prohibiting money from
the Harness Racing Promotional Fund from being used to pay the
administration of the Harness Racing Promotion Board, the
expenses of its members or the salary of the executive director.
The amendment also requires that the board include in its annual
report to the Legislature a marketing plan based on its statutory
duties. The amendment repeals the Harness Racing Promotion Board
June 3, 2001. The amendment also adds a fiscal note.