MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1544

H.P. 1097

House of Representatives, February 25, 1999

An Act to Study the Effectiveness of Harness Racing Promotions.

(EMERGENCY)

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

Presented by Representative DUNLAP of Old Town.

	Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
2	become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
4	Whereas, this legislation establishes the Commission to
6	Study the Effectiveness of Harness Racing Promotions; and
8	Whereas, this legislation is necessary as an emergency
10	measure to afford adequate time for the issues to be appropriately addressed by the commission; and
12	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
14	Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
16	safety; now, therefore,
18	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
20	PART A
22	Sec. A-1. 8 MRSA §285, as amended by PL 1997, c. 735, §§7 and 8, is repealed.
24	Sec. A-2. 8 MRSA §291, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 528, §46, is
26	repealed.
28	Sec. A-3. Effective date. This Part takes effect July 10, 2000.
30	PART B
32	Sec. B-1. Commission established. The Commission to Study the Effectiveness of Harness Racing Promotions, referred to in this
34	Part as the "commission," is established.
36	Sec. B-2. Commission membership. The commission consists of the following members:
38	 Two Senators, appointed by the President of the Senate,
40	one Senator from the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs and one Senator from the Joint Standing
42	Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;
44	2. Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House, 2 members from the Joint Standing
46	Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs and one member from the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and
48	Forestry; and

2 One member from each commercial track licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, chapter 11; One member from the Department of Agriculture, Food and 6 Rural Resources; and 8 C. One member from the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism and Community Development. 10 Sec. B-3. Cochairs. 12 The first named Senate member is the Senate chair of the commission and the first named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission. 14 Sec. B-4. Appointments; meetings. 16 All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this 18 The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after appointment of all members, 20 the cochairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the 22 commission. Sec. B-5. Duties. The commission shall: 24 Analyze economic trends in different harness racing 26 venues from 1990 to the present; 28 Evaluate the effectiveness of harness racing promotions 30 historically; Study and develop options for future promotion and 32 methods to evaluate future promotion; and 34 Study ways to coordinate with other marketing efforts and programs of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural 36 Resources and of the Office of Tourism and Community Development. 38 Sec. B-6. Staff assistance. Upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide 40 necessary staffing services to the commission. 42 Sec. B-7. Compensation. The members of the commission are entitled to receive legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine 44 Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2 and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at 46 meetings of the commission. 48 Sec. B-8. Report. The commission shall submit its report, together with any recommended implementing legislation, to the 50

3. Other members appointed by the Governor as follows:

Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature no later than January 10, 2000. If the commission requires an extension of time to complete its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension.

Sec. B-9. Commission budget. The cochairs of the commission, with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the commission's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not incur expenses that would exceed its approved budget.

Upon request from the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council or the executive director's designee, shall promptly provide the commission cochairs and staff with a status report on the study budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

Part A of this bill abolishes the Harness Racing Promotional Board effective July 10, 2000. Part B of this bill establishes the Commission to Study the Effectiveness of Harness Racing Promotions, which will report to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature no later than January 10, 2000.