

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 912

S.P. 265

In Senate, February 15, 2001

An Act to Amend the Harness Racing Laws to Provide for Staggered Terms.

Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KNEELAND of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative CHIZMAR of Lisbon and
Senators: KILKELLY of Lincoln, SAWYER of Penobscot, Representatives: BLANCHETTE
of Bangor, LABRECQUE of Gorham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §261-A, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 528,
4 §4, is further amended to read:

6 **4. Term of office.** Members of the commission serve 3-year
terms. For appointments that expire in 2003, the Governor shall
8 appoint one commissioner for a term of one year, 2 commissioners
for a term of 2 years and 2 commissioners for a term of 3 years.
10 Any vacancy is filled by appointment for the remainder of the
unexpired term of that member. Members whose terms expire serve
12 until their successors are qualified and appointed.

14 **Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §261-A, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 527,
§1 and c. 528, §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its
16 place:

18 **6. Chair.** The commissioners shall select one of the
members of the commission to be chair of the commission for the
20 ensuing year.

22 **Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §285, sub-§3**, as repealed and replaced by PL
1997, c. 735, §7, is amended to read:

24 **3. Membership.** The board consists of 9 members and 2
26 alternates appointed by the commissioner. Full, voting board
members must be appointed by the commissioner as follows:

28 A. Two persons representing commercial tracks: one
30 representing and recommended by each of the 2 commercial
harness racing tracks in the State;

32 B. One person recommended by an association in the State
34 representing harness horsemen;

36 C. Two persons recommended by an association in the State
representing Standardbred breeders and owners;

38 D. One person nominated by the Maine Association of
40 Agricultural Fairs;

42 E. One person who represents the interests of off-track
betting facilities; and

44 F. Two persons who are members of the general public with
46 an interest in harness racing.

48 Alternates must be members of the general public with an interest
in harness racing. An alternate may cast a vote as a member of
50 the board upon the absence of a full, voting member.

2 ~~Members-serve-3-year-terms.~~

4 **Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §285, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

6 **3-A. Terms.** Members serve 3-year terms. For appointments
8 that expire in 2001, the commissioner shall appoint 3 members for
10 a term of one year, 3 members for a term of 2 years and 3 members
12 for a term of 3 years. Any vacancy is filled by appointment for
14 the remainder of the unexpired term of that member. Members
16 whose terms expire serve until their successors are qualified and
18 appointed.

SUMMARY

16 This bill staggers the terms of the members of the State
18 Harness Racing Commission and the Harness Racing Promotional
20 Board. It also allows the commission to elect one of its members
to serve as chair rather than having the Governor appoint a
member.