

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 642

H.P. 472

House of Representatives, February 11, 2003

An Act To Ensure the Economic Viability of the Harness Racing Industry

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative USHER of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator PENDLETON of Cumberland and
Representatives: CLARK of Millinocket, DUGAY of Cherryfield, HATCH of Skowhegan,
SHERMAN of Hodgdon, TARDY of Newport.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §275-B, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

6 3. Live, simulcast or replayed races. A commercial track
8 may sell pari-mutuel pools on live, simulcast or replayed horse
10 races using technology determined by the commission by rule as
12 being most beneficial to the industry. Such technology must
include, but not be limited to, telephone account wagering.
Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical
rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

14 **Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §314-A, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 426,
§3 and affected by §9, is further amended to read:

16 1. **Eligible organizations.** The Chief of the State Police
18 may issue licenses to operate high-stakes beano or high-stakes
bingo to any federally recognized Indian tribe or to any
20 commercial track, as defined in Title 8, section 275-A, that
conducted racing on more than 100 days in each of the previous 2
calendar years.

22 A. The Chief of the State Police may also issue, to any
24 federally recognized tribe, licenses to sell lucky seven or
other similar sealed tickets in accordance with section 324.

26 B. In conjunction with the operation of high-stakes beano,
28 federally recognized Indian tribes and commercial tracks
holding a license under this section may advertise and offer
30 prizes for attendance with a value of up to \$25,000 under
the terms prescribed for raffles in section 331, subsection
32 6. Any prize awarded under this paragraph must be awarded
only on the basis of a ticket of admission to the
34 high-stakes beano game and may only be awarded to a person
who holds an admission ticket.

36 **Sec. 3. 17 MRSA §314-A, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 426,
38 §5, is further amended to read:

40 5. **Restrictions.** No license may be transferred or
42 assigned. No more than one license may be issued under this
section to any federally recognized Indian tribe for any one
44 period. No more than one licensee may operate or conduct a beano
game or high-stakes beano game on the same premises on the same
46 date. All games must be conducted within the Indian Territory of
the licensed organization or within the enclosure of the
racetrack where the licensed race or race meet is conducted.

48 **Sec. 4. 17 MRSA §314-A, sub-§10** is enacted to read:

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2 10. Commercial tracks. Commercial tracks licensed under
3 this section must dedicate 50% of the net profit from the games
4 conducted to capital improvements at the racing facilities.

6 **Sec. 5. 17 MRSA §324, first ¶.** as amended by PL 1997, c. 373,
7 §8, is further amended to read:

8 No Except as otherwise provided in section 314-A, no "Beano"
9 game may be conducted at any location where any lottery or other
10 game of chance is conducted, nor may any lottery or other game of
11 chance be conducted during the period of one hour before the
12 conduct of any "Beano" game at the specific location of the
13 "Beano" game, except that the following lotteries may be
14 conducted during the period of one hour before the conduct of
15 "Beano" games.

16 **Sec. 6. 17 MRSA §324, sub-§3.** as amended by PL 1997, c. 373,
17 §8, is further amended to read:

18 **3. Lucky seven.** Lucky seven or similar sealed tickets may
19 be sold when that game of chance is licensed by the Chief of the
20 State Police and when a valid license certificate is properly
21 displayed. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section
22 and section 312, Lucky seven games may be conducted during the
23 period beginning 2 hours before and ending 2 hours after any
24 "Beano" game and during those times when a commercial track, as
25 defined in Title 8, section 275-A, is licensed to accept
26 pari-mutuel wagers.

27 A. Notwithstanding any other rule, Lucky seven or other
28 similar sealed tickets may be sold that have a sale value of
29 \$1 or less.

34 SUMMARY

35 **36** The purpose of this bill is to expand wagering opportunities
37 at racetracks in the State. This bill accomplishes the following:

38 1. It authorizes the sale of pari-mutuel pools on live,
39 simulcast or replayed horse races by commercial tracks; and

40 2. It authorizes the issuance to commercial tracks of
41 licenses to conduct high-stakes beano.
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