

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1296

H.P. 914

House of Representatives, March 9, 2007

An Act To Amend Certain Harness Racing Laws

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

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative MAREAN of Hollis.
Cosponsored by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, GIFFORD of Lincoln, MOORE of Standish, PIEH of
Bremen.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §280**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 528, §41, is repealed and the
3 following enacted in its place:

4 **§280. Use of drugs or appliance; veterinarian**

5 **1. Violation; interference with horse.** Except as provided in section 279-A, a
6 person may not intentionally or knowingly:

7 A. Interfere with, tamper, injure, destroy, stimulate or depress by the use of
8 narcotics, drugs, stimulants or appliances of any kind any horse used for the purpose
9 of racing, whether that horse is the property of that person or another;

10 B. Attempt to violate paragraph A; or

11 C. Cause, instigate, counsel or in any way abet the violation of paragraph A.

12 **2. Prearrange results of race; prohibited.** A person may not intentionally or
13 knowingly influence or have any understanding, arrangement or connivance with any
14 person associated with or interested in any stable, horse, track or race in which any horse
15 participates to prearrange the results of such a race.

16 **3. Penalties.** The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

17 A. A person who violates this section commits a Class C crime.

18 B. The owner of any horse that is found to have been stimulated or doped must be
19 denied any part of the purse offered for a race in which that horse participated, and
20 the purse must be distributed as in the case of a disqualification. If the owner of a
21 horse is convicted of violating this section, the court may bar the owner from racing
22 any horses in the State for a period of one year from the date of conviction.

23 **4. Veterinarian; duties.** The department is authorized to employ a veterinarian.
24 The duties of the veterinarian include the medical and physical examination and testing of
25 horses to ensure compliance with the statutes and advising the department of any
26 violation of the statutes.

27

SUMMARY

28 This bill makes it a Class C crime to drug or dope a horse or prearrange the results of
29 any harness race. The bill also reformats the pertinent section of statute from a narrative
30 to an outline format.