

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



STATE LAW LIBRARY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 805

S.P. 313

In Senate, March 3, 2009

An Act To Change Current Limits on Commercial Harness Racing Tracks

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs 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 JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senators: MARRACHÉ of Kennebec, SULLIVAN of York, Representative:
CRAY of Palmyra.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §1011, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 687, Pt. A, §5 and
3 affected by Pt. B, §11, is amended to read:

4 **2. Eligible persons.** The board may accept applications for a license to operate slot
5 machines from any person who is licensed to operate a commercial track that satisfies the
6 following criteria:

7 A. ~~The commercial track is located at or within a 5 mile radius of the center of a~~
8 ~~commercial track that~~ conducted harness racing with pari-mutuel wagering on more
9 than 25 days during calendar year 2002; and

10 B. The operation of slot machines at the commercial track is approved by the voters
11 of the municipality in which the commercial track to be licensed is located by
12 referendum election held at any time after December 31, 2002 ~~and before December~~
13 ~~31, 2003.~~

14 **Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §1020, sub-§3, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 687, Pt. A, §5 and
15 affected by Pt. B, §11, is amended to read:

16 A. The total number of slot machines registered in the State may not exceed ~~1,500~~
17 3,000; and

18 **Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§2, ¶E,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 663, §12, is
19 further amended to read:

20 E. Ten percent of the net slot machine income must be forwarded by the board to the
21 State Controller to be credited to the Fund for a Healthy Maine established by Title
22 22, section 1511 and segregated into a separate account under Title 22, section 1511,
23 subsection 11, with the use of funds in the account restricted to the purposes
24 described in Title 22, section 1511, subsection 6, paragraph E, except that, if the net
25 slot machine income is generated by slot machines located at the premises of a
26 commercial track that was initially approved for operation of slot machines after
27 January 1, 2009, this amount must be forwarded by the board to the Treasurer of
28 State for deposit in the General Fund;

29 **Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§2, ¶F,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 663, §12, is
30 further amended to read:

31 F. Two percent of the net slot machine income must be forwarded by the board to the
32 University of Maine System Scholarship Fund created in Title 20-A, section 10909,
33 except that, if the net slot machine income is generated by slot machines located at
34 the premises of a commercial track that was initially approved for operation of slot
35 machines after January 1, 2009, this amount must be forwarded by the board to the
36 Treasurer of State for deposit in the General Fund;

37 **Sec. 5. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§2, ¶G,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 663, §12, is
38 further amended to read:

1 G. One percent of the net slot machine income must be forwarded by the board to the
2 board of trustees of the Maine Community College System to be applied by the board
3 of trustees to fund its scholarships program under Title 20-A, section 12716,
4 subsection 1, except that, if the net slot machine income is generated by slot
5 machines located at the premises of a commercial track that was initially approved
6 for operation of slot machines after January 1, 2009, this amount must be forwarded
7 by the board to the Treasurer of State for deposit in the General Fund;

8 **Sec. 6. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§2, ¶H,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 663, §12, is
9 further amended to read:

10 H. Four percent of the net slot machine income must be forwarded by the board to
11 the Treasurer of State, who shall credit the money to the Fund to Encourage Racing at
12 Maine's Commercial Tracks, established in section 299; however, the payment
13 required by this paragraph is terminated when all commercial tracks have obtained a
14 license to operate slot machines in accordance with this chapter. If the net slot
15 machine income is generated by slot machines located at the premises of a
16 commercial track that was initially approved for operation of slot machines after
17 January 1, 2009, this amount must be forwarded by the board to the Treasurer of
18 State for deposit in the General Fund;

19 SUMMARY

20 This bill amends the laws governing commercial tracks and licensing for slot
21 machines.

22 1. Current law requires that an applicant for a license to operate slot machines by a
23 person licensed to operate a commercial track be located "at or within a 5-mile radius of
24 the center of a commercial track" that conducted harness racing with pari-mutuel
25 wagering on more than 25 days during calendar year 2002. This bill removes the 5-mile
26 radius requirement but retains the specification that the commercial track operated by the
27 applicant has conducted harness racing with pari-mutuel wagering during that period of
28 time.

29 2. This bill removes language limiting the operation of slot machines to commercial
30 tracks licensed by a referendum election held prior to December 31, 2003.

31 3. The bill provides that, for slot machines located at commercial tracks initially
32 licensed for slot machines after January 1, 2009, the revenue designated for distribution
33 to the Fund for a Healthy Maine, the University of Maine Scholarship Fund, the Maine
34 Community College System and the Fund to Encourage Racing at Maine's Commercial
35 Tracks would instead be deposited in the General Fund.

36 4. The bill increases from 1,500 to 3,000 the total number of slot machines allowed
37 in the State.