

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 500

H. P. 1256

House of Representatives, February 12, 1935.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and 1,000 copies ordered printed.  
Sent up for concurrence.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Willey of Falmouth.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
THIRTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT Relating to Horse Racing for Trotters and Pacers and Creating  
a State Racing Commission.**

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

**Sec. 1. State racing commission.** There shall be and hereby is created a state racing commission consisting of 3 members who shall be appointed and may be for cause removed by the governor with the advice and consent of the council. One member shall be appointed for 1 year, one for 2 years and one for 3 years and upon the expiration of their terms of office their successors shall be appointed for a term of 3 years. Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term. The members shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified. So far as practicable they shall be persons interested in the establishment and development of a Maine breed of standard bred horses and no member of the commission shall have any pecuniary interest in any racing or the sale of pari mutuel pools licensed under the provisions of this act.

**Sec. 2. Organization.** The commissioners shall select one from their number to be chairman and another to be secretary of the commission. Two of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum to do business. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep a record of all proceedings of the commission and to preserve all books, maps, documents, papers and records entrusted to its care.

**Sec. 3. Racing fund.** The treasurer of state shall keep a separate account, to be known as the racing fund, to which shall be credited all money received from the tax on contributions to pari mutuel pools as provided for in this act. Said fund shall be used for the general purposes of the state until otherwise ordered by the legislature.

**Sec. 4. Bond.** Each member of the commission shall give bond to the state in the sum of \$5000, with sureties, to be approved by the governor and council, for the faithful performance of the duties of his office.

**Sec. 5. Office.** The commission shall have an office in Augusta and during the time in which racing is conducted in the state may maintain branch offices elsewhere.

**Sec. 6. Assistants.** The commission, with the approval of the governor and council, is authorized to employ such assistants and employees as it may deem necessary to provide adequate policing and to carry out the purposes of this act at such compensation on a per diem basis as the commission may prescribe.

**Sec. 7. Compensation.** Each member of the commission shall receive a salary of \$1000 a year and his reasonable expenses, including transportation, incurred in the performance of his duties, to be audited and allowed by the governor and council.

**Sec. 8. Disbursements.** The compensation of the commissioners, expenses of the commissioners, compensation of assistants and other necessary expenses of the commission, including suitable furniture, equipment, supplies and office expenses shall be charged to and paid out of the fund received under the provisions of this act.

**Sec. 9. Report of the commission.** The commission shall make an annual report to the governor on or before the 1st day of December in each year, including therein an account of its actions, receipts derived under the provisions of this act, the practical effects of the application of this act, and any recommendation for legislation which the commission deems advisable.

**Sec. 10. Rules and regulations.** Said commission shall make rules and regulations for the holding, conducting and operating of all harness horse races or meets for public exhibition held in this state and for the operation of race tracks on which any such race or meet is held. No such race or

meet shall be permitted on Sunday. No meeting to be allowed for more than 6 days in any 30 day period.

**Sec. 11. Races.** No person, association or corporation shall hold, conduct or operate any harness horse race or meet for public exhibition if pari mutuel betting is permitted within the state without a license from the state racing commission.

**Sec. 12. Licenses.** Any person, association or corporation desiring to hold a harness horse race or meet for public exhibition shall apply to said commission for a license to do so. The application shall be signed and sworn to by the person or executive officer of the association or corporation and shall contain the following information:

(a) The full name and address of the person, association or corporation.

(b) If an association, the names and residences of the members of the association.

(c) If a corporation, the name of the state under which it is incorporated with its principal place of business and the names and addresses of its directors and stockholders.

(d) The exact location where it is desired to conduct or hold races or race meets.

(e) Whether or not the racing plant is owned or leased, and if leased, the name and residence of the fee owner, or if a corporation, of the directors and stockholders thereof.

(f) A statement of the assets and liabilities of the person, association or corporation making such application.

(g) Such other information as the commission may require.

**Sec. 13. Issuance of license.** If the commission is satisfied that all the provisions of this act and the rules and regulations prescribed by the commission have been and will be complied with by the person, association or corporation applying for a license, it may issue a license which shall expire on the 31st day of December. But between the dates of August 1 and October 20 no license shall be issued to anyone but an agricultural fair association. The license shall set forth the name of the licensee, the place where the races or race meets are to be held, and the time and number of days during which racing may be conducted by said licensee. Any such license issued shall not be transferable or assignable. Said commission shall have power to revoke any license issued at any time for good cause upon reasonable notice and hearing. The license of any corporation shall automatically cease upon the change in ownership, legal or equitable, of 50% or

more of the voting stock of the corporation and the corporation shall not hold a harness horse race or meet for public exhibition, without a new license.

**Sec. 14. Bond.** Every person, association or corporation licensed under this act shall before said license is issued give bond to the state in such reasonable sum not exceeding \$50,000 as may be fixed by the commission with a surety or sureties to be approved by the commission conditioned to faithfully make the payments prescribed by this act and to keep its books and records and make reports as herein provided and to conduct its racing in conformity with this act and the rules and regulations prescribed by the commission.

**Sec. 15. Penalty.** Any person, association or corporation holding or conducting, or any person or persons aiding or abetting in the holding or conducting of any harness horse race or meet for public exhibition within the state without a license duly issued by said commission, or any person, association or corporation who violates any of the provisions of this act or who violates any of the rules and regulations prescribed by the commission shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5000 or by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or both.

**Sec. 16. Pari mutuel pools.** Within the enclosure and on the grounds of any race track where is held a race or race meet licensed and conducted under this act but not elsewhere, the sale of pari mutuel pools under such regulations as may be prescribed by said commission is hereby permitted and authorized. Commissions on such pools shall in no event and at no track exceed 10% and the odd cents of all redistribution to be made on all mutuel contributions exceeding a sum equal to the next lowest multiple of 5. Said maximum shall include the 3½% tax hereinafter prescribed.

**Sec. 17. Tax on pari mutuel pools.** Each person, association or corporation licensed to conduct a race or race meet under this act shall pay to the treasurer of state for the use of the state a sum equal to 3½% of the total contributions to all pari mutuel pools conducted or made at any race or race meet licensed under this act.

**Sec. 18. Payment.** Said payment under the preceding section shall be made not later than 7 days after each race and shall be accompanied by a report under oath showing the total of all said contributions to pari mutuel pools covered by such report and such other information as the commission may require.

**Sec. 19. Limitation.** No part of this act shall be construed to apply to any racing whatever except harness horse races.

**Sec. 20. Records.** Every person, association or corporation conducting a race or race meet under this act shall so keep its books and records as to clearly show the total number of admissions and the total amount of money contributed to every pari mutuel pool on each race separately and the amount of money received daily from admission fees, and within 60 days after the conclusion of every race meeting shall submit to the commission a complete audit of its accounts certified by a public accountant qualified to practice in the state of Maine and approved by the commission.

**Sec. 21. Minors.** No minor whether attending a race or employed in any manner on or about a race track shall be permitted to participate in any pari mutuel pool or be admitted to any pari mutuel enclosure.

**Sec. 22. Supervision.** Said commission shall have the power and authority to regulate, supervise and check the making of pari mutuel pools and the distribution therefrom. Said commission shall have the further power and authority to investigate as to the direct and indirect ownership and control of any licensee and any expense incurred by the commission in so doing shall be at the expense of such licensee or of the applicant for a license.

**Sec. 23. Standard bred horses.** Said commission shall also encourage and promote the breeding of a strain of Maine standard bred horses and make provision to encourage donations of the same by licensees or others to persons or institutions within the state for breeding purposes.

**Sec. 24. Effect on other laws.** All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby suspended while this law is in force.

**Sec. 25. Enforcement.** It shall be the duty of the attorney-general with the aid of the solicitors of the several counties to enforce the provisions of this act upon notification from said commission of any violations thereof.