

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F O U R T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 894

S. P. 445

In Senate, February 18, 1949

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Brewer of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

AN ACT Relating to Harness Horse Racing Meets.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, there is an immediate need for changes in the laws of the state relating to harness horse racing which if not made will result in substantial loss to the state of revenues urgently needed during the next fiscal biennium; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now therefore,

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 77, § 9, amended. Section 9 of chapter 77 of the revised statutes as amended by chapter 358 of the public laws of 1947, is further amended to read as follows:

Sec. 9. Rules and regulations. The 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 held on Sunday. No meeting shall be allowed for more than 6 days in any 28-day period at times when agricultural fairs operating pari

mutuel pools are held, except that between the 1st day of July and the 1st Monday of August, a meeting may be allowed for not exceeding 18 days on mile tracks. In the event such an 18-day meeting is held, no further meetings **at such mile tracks** where pari mutuel betting is permitted, shall be allowed during the same calendar year. **At times when agricultural fairs operating harness horse racing with pari mutuel pools are not being held the commission may allow races or meets for not exceeding 12 days in any 28-day period.** No part of this chapter shall be construed to apply to any racing whatever except harness horse races.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 77, § 15, amended. The last 2 sentences of section 15 of chapter 77 of the revised statutes are hereby amended to read as follows:

'Commissions on such pools shall in no event and at no track exceed ~~10%~~ 15% 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%~~ 5% tax hereinafter prescribed.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 77, § 16, amended. Section 16 of chapter 77 of the revised statutes, as amended by section 26 of chapter 297 of the public laws of 1945, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'**Sec. 16. Tax on pari mutuel pools.** Each person, association or corporation licensed to conduct a race or race meet under the provisions of this chapter shall pay to the treasurer of state, to be credited to the general fund of the state, a sum equal to ~~3½%~~ 5% of the total contributions to all pari mutuel pools conducted or made at any race or race meet licensed under the provisions of this chapter. **A sum equal to ½% of such total contributions shall be paid to the treasurer of state to be credited to the 'stipend' fund provided by section 16 of chapter 27 of the revised statutes as amended.**'

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.