

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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Legislative Document

No. 870

H. P. 610

House of Representatives, February 19, 1959

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Heald of Union.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Relating to Licenses for Pari Mutuel Harness Horse Racing.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, due to increased cost of labor and materials, the cost of State Government in administering the services required by law has increased; and

Whereas, orderly procedure of administering the essential duties required by the people of the State of Maine necessitates further moneys; 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. 86, § 11, amended.** The first sentence of section 11 of chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'If the commission is satisfied that all the provisions of this chapter 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, ~~and between~~. ~~Between~~ the dates of the first Monday in August and October 20th, it may issue a license to an agricultural fair association for a pari mutuel harness meet in connection with its annual fair, but no other person, association or

corporation shall be licensed to operate either a day or night pari mutuel harness meet ~~within the same or any adjoining county~~ when an agricultural fair association is operating a pari mutuel harness meet at the time of its annual fair, without the consent of said fair association.'

**Sec. 2. R. S., c. 86, § 11, amended.** The 2nd paragraph of section 11 of chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes is repealed, as follows:

~~'No license shall be granted to any person, firm, association or corporation to hold harness horse races or meets for public exhibition with pari mutuel pools between the dates of November 30th and May 1st.'~~

**Sec. 3. R. S., c. 86, § 11, amended.** The 4th paragraph of section 11 of chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes is repealed, as follows:

~~'Notwithstanding anything in this chapter to the contrary, the commission shall issue a license, where pari mutuel betting is permitted, to hold day or night harness races or meets for a period of 8 weeks and no more between June 15th and October 15th of each year, daily except Sundays. The commission shall grant such licenses for night harness racing to such applicants only, who shall have and maintain adequate pari mutuel facilities, which facilities shall include a totalizer or its equivalent where odds will change at least once every 2 minutes, adequate stable facilities for not less than 400 horses and shall have and maintain a track adequate in width to start 8 horses abreast. Said licensees shall also pay purses at least equal to minimum purses paid at any other New England harness racing track.'~~

**Sec. 4. R. S., c. 86, § 11, amended.** The last paragraph of section 11 of chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 382 of the public laws of 1957, is further amended to read as follows:

'Notwithstanding anything in this chapter to the contrary, the commission shall issue a license, where pari mutuel betting is permitted, to Gorham Raceways to hold day or night harness races or meets in Gorham each year for a period of 4 weeks, and no more, beginning in June on the Monday of the last full week therein which has 7 calendar days; ~~provided, however, that if,~~ except said commission may issue each spring a license to Gorham Raceways for an additional period, ending on the date said 4-week period begins. If no running racing is held at Scarborough Downs after Labor Day each year, Gorham Raceways may be permitted to hold harness races or meets at Gorham, but only if Gorham Raceways has the consent of the Agricultural Fair Associations operating a pari mutuel harness meet at its annual fair which occurs during the period of time Gorham Raceways requests to operate pari mutuel harness racing. Quinellas or any similar types of designations shall be permitted at any harness race or race meet each day, for the last heat only of the race conducted on any particular day.'

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