

# 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. 1283

H. P. 911

House of Representatives, March 24, 1959

Reported by Mr. Cote from the Committee on Legal Affairs. Printed under Joint Rules No. 10.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

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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 R. S., c. 86, § 11, amended.** The 2nd paragraph of section 11 of chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes is repealed, as follows: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. 2. R. S., c. 86, § 11, amended.** The 4th paragraph of section 11 of chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes is repealed, as follows: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 com-~~

mission 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 totalizator 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. 3. 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 said harness races or meets at Gorham held after Labor Day shall not be detrimental to the best interests of the agricultural associations of Maine, or any of them. The determination as to whether or not such harness races or meets are detrimental shall be made by the Commission after a public hearing following due notice to all parties concerned. 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.