

HOUSE BILL 704

C6

EMERGENCY BILL

6lr2695

By: **Delegates West, Aumann, Hettleman, Morhaim, and Stein**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Off-Track Betting – Maryland State Fairgrounds – Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing a provision of law that requires the State Fair Society to
4 obtain certain concurrence from a certain thoroughbred track before a certain track
5 is a receiving track during a certain period of time under certain circumstances;
6 prohibiting a track where racing is conducted by the State Fair Society from being a
7 certain receiving track during a certain period of time; prohibiting the State Racing
8 Commission from granting a certain permit to hold satellite simulcast betting at the
9 Maryland State Fairgrounds; providing for the application of this Act; making this
10 Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to off-track betting and the
11 Maryland State Fairgrounds.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Business Regulation
14 Section 11–811(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Business Regulation
19 Section 11–811(h) and 11–817
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Business Regulation**

25 11–811.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (2) “Fair Hill” means the Cecil County Breeders’ Fair, Inc., or its successor.

3 (3) “State Fair Society” means the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural
4 Society, Inc.

5 (h) Notwithstanding [the] **ANY OTHER** provisions [of subsection (f)] of this
6 section, [if] a track where racing is conducted by the State Fair Society [is within the
7 35-mile radius of a mile thoroughbred track, it shall first obtain the concurrence of that
8 mile thoroughbred track before it] may **NOT** be a receiving track during a period of time
9 when the State Fair Society is not licensed to conduct live racing.

10 11–817.

11 (a) A person must have a permit granted by the Commission whenever the person
12 holds satellite simulcast betting.

13 **(B) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT GRANT A PERMIT TO A PERSON TO HOLD**
14 **SATELLITE SIMULCAST BETTING AT THE MARYLAND STATE FAIRGROUNDS IN**
15 **TIMONIUM.**

16 **[(b)] (C)** Nothing in this Part III of this subtitle may preempt local zoning laws
17 or ordinances.

18 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall be construed to
19 apply retroactively and shall be applied to and interpreted to affect any authorization for a
20 track where racing is conducted by the State Fair Society to be a receiving track, or a permit
21 granted to a person to hold satellite simulcast betting at the Maryland State Fairgrounds,
22 on or after January 1, 2016.

23 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act is an emergency
24 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
25 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
26 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
27 enacted.