

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 815
Ways and Means

(Cecil County Delegation and Delegate Metzgar)

Finance

Horse Racing - Fair Hill - Arabian Breed Racing Authorization

This bill authorizes a licensee at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area to conduct live racing of Arabian breed horses if the purse for an Arabian breed race is funded by the licensee or the sponsor of the race, specified takeout provisions apply, the licensee pays specified taxes and fees, and the race is approved by the Maryland Racing Commission (MRC). An Arabian breed horse is a horse that is a purebred Arabian breed horse and has a valid certificate of registry with the Arabian Jockey Club of America.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances because the bill does not increase the limit on the number of race days that may be held at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. Small businesses in the Arabian breed horse industry may benefit from being able to race their horses at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

Analysis

Current Law: MRC must issue a license to the Cecil County Breeders' Fair, Inc., or its successor, to hold racing on at least two, but no more than eight, one-day race meetings a year for steeplechase, hurdle, or flat racing at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area. The racing must be held on dates that the licensee chooses and MRC approves.

MRC may issue a license to the licensee to hold racing on two race meetings a year for quarter horse racing at Fair Hill.

Pimlico Race Course may conduct live racing of Arabian breed horses if certain conditions are met. An Arabian breed horse is a horse that is a purebred Arabian breed horse and has a valid certificate of registry with the Arabian Jockey Club of America.

Background: The Cecil County Breeders' Fair, Inc., is currently approved for four days of steeplechase racing at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area. Since the licensee may conduct up to eight one-day race meetings, MRC could approve up to four days of live racing of Arabian breed horses.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 1116 (Senator Norman, *et al.*) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

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