

Chapter 497

(House Bill 815)

AN ACT concerning

Horse Racing – Fair Hill – Arabian Breed Racing Authorization

FOR the purpose of authorizing a licensee at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area to conduct live racing of Arabian breed horses under certain circumstances; defining a certain term; and generally relating to horse racing at Fair Hill.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Business Regulation
Section 11–701 through 11–704
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Business Regulation
Section 11–705
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Business Regulation

11–701.

This subtitle applies only to the licensee that is the Cecil County Breeders' Fair, Inc., or its successor.

11–702.

(a) (1) The Commission shall issue a license to the Cecil County Breeders' Fair, Inc., or its successor to hold racing on at least 2 but not more than 8 one-day race meetings a year for steeplechase, hurdle, or flat racing at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

(2) The racing shall be held on dates that the licensee chooses and the Commission approves.

(b) In conjunction with this racing, an agricultural fair with livestock entered for exhibition shall be held under the auspices of the State Fair Board on at least 1 racing day.

(c) For each racing day, the licensee shall offer at least 1 steeplechase or hurdle race for each flat race, but an additional flat race may be substituted for a steeplechase race or hurdle race that is not filled.

(d) An officer of the licensee may not receive a salary or dividends from racing allowed under this subtitle.

(e) The licensee shall allocate to the Union Hospital of Cecil County all profits earned under this subtitle, including money from pari-mutuel betting, admission charges, and other receipts.

11-703.

The Commission may issue a license to the licensee to hold racing on 2 race meetings a year for quarter horse racing at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

11-704.

(a) (1) The licensee shall deduct from the handle:

(i) all the breakage; and

(ii) 25%.

(2) From the 25% that the licensee deducts from the handle, 9% of the handle shall be paid to the Commission, which shall send it to the Comptroller to be credited to the Fair Hill Improvement Fund established in § 5-908 of the Natural Resources Article.

(b) Money that remains after deductions are made under subsection (a) of this section shall be returned as winnings to successful bettors.

11-705.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ARABIAN BREED HORSE” MEANS A HORSE THAT:

(1) IS A PUREBRED ARABIAN BREED HORSE; AND

(2) HAS A VALID CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRY WITH THE ARABIAN JOCKEY CLUB OF AMERICA.

(B) A LICENSEE AT THE FAIR HILL NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA MAY CONDUCT LIVE RACING OF ARABIAN BREED HORSES IF:

(1) THE PURSE FOR AN ARABIAN BREED RACE IS FUNDED BY THE LICENSEE OR THE SPONSOR OF THE RACE;

(2) THE TAKEOUT PROVISIONS OF § 11-704 OF THIS SUBTITLE APPLY TO THE RACE;

(3) THE LICENSEE PAYS ALL TAXES AND FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARABIAN BREED RACE THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE DUE ON A STEEPLECHASE, HURDLE, OR FLAT RACE; AND

(4) THE ARABIAN BREED RACE IS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2016.