

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 315

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “- Taxes - Purses”; and in line 6, after the semicolon insert “altering the distribution of proceeds from the State Lottery Fund for a certain fiscal year; requiring that a certain amount of revenue that would otherwise be paid to the General Fund be distributed to a special fund to be used only to increase purses at harness racing tracks and mile thoroughbred racing tracks in the State; requiring the Governor by budgetary amendment to allocate money from the special fund to increase purses offered at harness racing tracks and mile thoroughbred racing tracks in the State; requiring that the purses be increased according to a certain formula; requiring that all funds for purses under this Act be in addition to and not supplant certain other funds; requiring the Governor to create a commission to study ways to improve the financial viability of the racing industry; providing for the membership, duties, and staffing of the commission; requiring the commission to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act;”; and strike beginning with “taxes” in line 6 down through “races” in line 7 and substitute “horse racing in the State”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in lines 7, 18, and 29, in each instance, strike “0.14%” and substitute “0.32%”; in line 11, strike “8.06%” and substitute “7.88%”; in line 22, strike “9.06%” and substitute “8.88%”; and in line 33, strike “12.06%” and substitute “11.88%”.

On page 3, in lines 1 and 15, in each instance, strike “0.14%” and substitute “0.32%”; in lines 3 and 17, in each instance, strike “0.36%” and substitute “0.18%”; and in line 21, strike the second “PURSES” and substitute “PARTIES”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, after line 26 insert:

(Over)

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) Notwithstanding § 9-120 of the State Government Article, after cumulative distributions for Fiscal Year 1997 to the General Fund under § 9-120(b)(1)(ii) of the State Government Article total \$334,172,000, \$5.0 million of the remaining revenue that would otherwise be paid to the General Fund under § 9-120(b)(1)(ii) of the State Government Article shall be distributed to a special fund to be used only to increase purses at harness racing tracks and mile thoroughbred racing tracks in the State in accordance with this Act.

(b) In accordance with § 7-209 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, the Governor by budgetary amendment shall allocate money from the special fund created under subsection (a) of this section to increase purses at harness racing tracks and mile thoroughbred racing tracks in the following manner:

(1) 70% to purses at the mile thoroughbred racing tracks; and

(2) 30% to purses at the harness racing tracks.

(c) The purses shall be increased at harness racing tracks and mile thoroughbred racing tracks according to a formula determined by the State Racing Commission, the race track licensees, the organization that represents a majority of owners and trainers of standardbred horses in the State, and the organization that represents a majority of owners and trainers of thoroughbred horses in the State.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 3, before line 27 insert:

“SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That all funds provided for purses at harness racing tracks and mile thoroughbred racing tracks by this Act shall be in addition to and may not supplant:

(a) Amounts allocated for purses under current agreements between the harness racing tracks and the organization that represents a majority of owners and trainers of standardbred horses in the State; and

(b) Amounts otherwise provided in statute for purses at mile thoroughbred racing tracks in the State.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Governor shall create a commission to study ways to improve the financial viability of the racing industry.

(b) The commission shall include within the scope of the study the economic and social impacts of the options it considers on the communities surrounding Pimlico Race Course, including ways to improve local employment and economic development opportunities. If appropriate and if funds are available, the commission shall contract with an independent entity with experience in local impact studies to assist its review of the community impact.

(c) The commission shall be comprised of:

(1) Three members of the Senate Finance Committee, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) One additional member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) Three members of the House Committee on Ways and Means, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(4) One additional member of the Maryland House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(5) Four members appointed by the Governor.

(d) The Governor shall designate a chairman of the commission from the appointed members.

(e) Staffing for the commission shall be provided by the Office of the Governor, the Department of Fiscal Services, and the Department of Legislative Reference.

(f) The commission shall report the results of its study, including findings and

(Over)

recommendations, to the Legislative Policy Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Committee on Ways and Means, in accordance with § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, on or before November 1, 1997.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 3, in line 27, strike “2.” and substitute “5.”; in line 28, strike “July” and substitute “June”; and in the same line, after the period insert “It shall remain effective for a period of one year and, at the end of May 31, 1998, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.