

**Department of Fiscal Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 226 (Delegate Bozman, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

Referred to Finance

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**Harness Racing - Restriction on Racing Time**

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This amended bill provides that a harness licensee may not hold live racing after 2 a.m. unless circumstances beyond the licensee's control cause a delay.

This bill is effective June 1, 1997.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenue. Expenditures would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None. This bill would not materially affect small businesses.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Revenues:** Regulations currently prohibit live harness racing starts after midnight, but not the reception of simulcast races. Thus, if a licensee should decide to hold live racing after midnight, general fund revenue could increase through the wagering tax. Wagering tax revenue is credited to a special fund, the surplus of which is credited to the general fund at the end of each fiscal year. The special fund is expected to have a surplus of \$2.0 million in fiscal 1998, so any increase in wagering tax revenue would effectively increase general fund revenue. Any such effect, however, is expected to be minimal.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (State Racing Commission), Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 31, 1997

brd Revised - House Third Reader - March 17, 1997

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