
By: **Delegates C. Davis and Hixson**
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Horse Racing - Allocation of Funds**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that certain budgeted funds be allocated to be used only
4 to increase purses and bred funds at harness racing tracks and mile
5 thoroughbred racing tracks in the State and to fund specified studies; requiring
6 that the purses and bred funds be increased according to a certain formula;
7 requiring that all funds for purses and bred funds under this Act be in addition
8 to and not supplant certain other funds; providing for the effective date and
9 termination of this Act; and generally relating to funds for horse racing in the
10 State budget.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That:

13 (a) Contingent upon an appropriation of general funds in the State budget for
14 Fiscal Year 1999 for the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to be used
15 for the horse racing industry, up to \$10 million shall be used to increase purses at
16 harness racing and mile thoroughbred racing tracks in the State, supplement existing
17 bred funds, and be used to conduct a study on the horse racing industry.

18 (b) The funds shall be divided as follows:

19 (1) The first \$250,000 to fund studies conducted by the Department of
20 Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, in consultation with relevant State agencies on:

21 (i) The economic impact of the horse industry in Maryland and
22 public private partnership possibilities;

23 (ii) The economic impact on the horse racing industry of the
24 financial assistance provided through Chapters 750 and 751 of the Acts of the General
25 Assembly of 1997; and

26 (iii) Market survey research and strategies, which are to be
27 conducted in partnership with the horse racing industry (i.e., a consortium of track
28 owners, breeders, trainers, and others); and

29 (2) Of the remaining amount:

1 (i) 15% to increase the bred funds to be allocated as follows:

2 1. 70% to the Maryland-Bred Race Fund; and

3 2. 30% to the Standard Bred Race Fund; and

4 (ii) 85% to increase purses at harness racing tracks and mile
5 thoroughbred racing tracks to be allocated as follows:

6 1. 70% to purses at the mile thoroughbred racing tracks and
7 Timonium; and

8 2. 30% to purses at the harness racing tracks.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That all funds provided for
10 purses and bred funds at harness racing tracks and mile thoroughbred racing tracks
11 by this Act shall be in addition to and may not supplant:

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

15 (b) Amounts otherwise provided in statute for purses and bred funds at mile
16 thoroughbred racing tracks in the State.

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 July 1, 1998. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
19 1999, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
20 abrogated and of no further force and effect.