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By: **Senator Hafer**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Horse Racing - Off-Track Facilities - County Approval**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a satellite simulcast facility for pari-mutuel  
4 betting on horse races be approved by the governing body of the county in which  
5 it is located before beginning operations; providing for the application of this  
6 Act; and generally relating to satellite simulcast facilities.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Business Regulation  
9 Section 11-825(a)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1992 Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Business Regulation**

15 11-825.

16 (a) A satellite simulcast facility:

17 (1) shall be in premises owned or leased by a permit holder;

18 (2) TO BEGIN OPERATIONS, SHALL RECEIVE BY LOCAL LAW THE  
19 APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED;

20 (3) may not be within a 35-mile radius of any mile thoroughbred track or  
21 harness track unless approved by the track licensee, the group that represents a  
22 majority of the applicable owners and trainers licensed in the State and the group  
23 that represents a majority of the applicable breeders in the State, considered  
24 separately;

25 [(3)] (4) unless the track agrees otherwise, may not operate during  
26 hours on those days that racing with pari-mutuel betting is permitted at a racetrack  
27 located in this State within a 35-mile radius of the satellite simulcast facility; and

1                    [~~(4)~~]   (5)       shall offer pari-mutuel betting facilities and amenities that the  
2 Commission finds are:

3                    (i)       comparable to those available in the sports palace facilities of  
4 the mile thoroughbred racing licensees including:

5                               1.       high quality dining, lounge, and seating areas that are of a  
6 manner generally found in fine restaurants; and

7                               2.       teletheatre screen capacity; and

8                    (ii)       appropriate for the area where the satellite simulcast facility is  
9 located.

10    SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be  
11 construed only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect  
12 on or application to any satellite simulcast facility in operation before the effective  
13 date of this Act.

14    SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
15 effect October 1, 1998.