

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 298 (Chairman. Ways and Means Committee)

Ways and Means

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**Maryland Horse Racing Act - Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation**

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This bill extends the sunset date for provisions of the Business Regulation Article related to the Maryland Horse Racing Act from July 1, 2001, to July 1, 2011, and requires an evaluation of the Maryland Racing Commission, the Maryland-Bred Race Fund Advisory Committee, and the Maryland Standardbred Race Fund Advisory Committee on or before July 1, 2010. The bill also requires the Maryland Racing Commission to inspect satellite simulcast facilities at least four times each year to determine if the permit holders are complying with the financial requirements, site requirements, and other requirements of their permits.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** State revenues and expenditures would be maintained because the bill proposes to continue the Maryland Horse Racing Act beyond FY 2001. The Governor's proposed FY 2001 budget assumes \$1,244,200 in general fund revenues and \$528,618 in special fund revenues for the Division of Racing and includes \$2,924,060 in general fund expenditures and \$528,618 in special fund expenditures for the Division of Racing. Out-year revenues and expenditures are expected to remain relatively constant. Because the commission already inspects satellite simulcast facilities from time to time, it is assumed that the commission could inspect those facilities at least four times annually with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Maryland Horse Racing Act sunsets on July 1, 2001. Under the Program Evaluation Act, evaluations of the Racing Commission, the Maryland-Bred Race Fund Advisory Committee, and the Maryland Standardbred Race Fund Advisory Committee must be made on or before July 1, 2000. Pursuant to that requirement, Legislative Services evaluated those entities in a report published in October 1999. The Racing Commission must inspect satellite simulcast facilities from time to time to determine if the permit holders are continuing to comply with applicable requirements.

**Background:** The Maryland Racing Commission regulates pari-mutuel betting, assigns racing dates, approves specific types of betting and admission charges, licenses employees at the various racetracks, approves overnight purse and stake schedules, collects betting taxes, operates a testing laboratory, regulates simulcast betting, and assists the breeders' advisory committee to further the thoroughbred and harness industries in the State.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 368 (Chairman, Finance Committee) - Finance.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Racing Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 21, 2000  
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