

SENATE BILL 765

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2001 Regular Session
1r2396

By: **Senator Bromwell**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2001

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Horse Racing - Purse Fund Enhancement**

3 FOR the purpose of extending for a certain period of time the provisions of law
4 enacted in the Racing Act of 2000 that require certain lottery revenues be
5 distributed to a special fund to be used only for certain purposes; and generally
6 relating to horse racing in the State.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Chapter 309 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2000
9 Section 6 and 10

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

12 **Chapter 309 of the Acts of 2000**

13 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

14 (a) Notwithstanding § 9-120 of the State Government Article, after
15 cumulative distributions of revenues from the State Lottery for fiscal year 2000 AND
16 FISCAL YEAR 2001 to the General Fund under § 9-120(b)(1)(ii) of the State
17 Government Article total \$366,813,000, \$10,000,000 of the remaining revenue that
18 would otherwise be paid to the General Fund under § 9-120(b)(1)(ii) of the State
19 Government Article shall be distributed to a special fund that shall be created to be
20 used in accordance with this Act only to increase purses at harness racing tracks, mile
21 thoroughbred tracks, and Timonium Race Course, to supplement existing bred funds,
22 and to improve health and education benefits for eligible persons that are licensed by
23 the Maryland Racing Commission.

24 (b) If lottery revenues do not provide the \$10,000,000 for the purposes
25 specified in subsection (a) of this section, the Governor may request a deficiency
26 appropriation during the [2001] 2002 Session to make up the difference.

27 (c) In accordance with § 7-209 of the State Finance and Procurement Article,
28 the Governor by budgetary amendment shall allocate money from the special fund

1 created under subsection (a) of this section in the manner specified under subsection
2 (d) of this section.

3 (d) The amount credited to the special fund created under subsection (a) of
4 this section shall be used as follows:

5 (1) 11% to increase the bred funds to be allocated as follows:

6 (i) 70% to the Maryland-Bred Race Fund; and

7 (ii) 30% to the Maryland Standardbred Race Fund; and

8 (2) 89% to increase purses at harness racing tracks and thoroughbred
9 racing tracks and to contribute to the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Fund, Inc. to
10 be allocated as follows:

11 (i) 70% to purses at the mile thoroughbred racing tracks and
12 Timonium provided that \$100,000 shall be paid to the Maryland Horsemen's
13 Assistance Fund, Inc. for the purpose of providing health and education benefits for
14 eligible persons that are licensed by the Maryland Racing Commission; and

15 (ii) 30% to purses at the harness racing tracks which shall be
16 allocated 85% for Rosecroft Raceway and 15% for Ocean Downs.

17 (e) All funds provided for purses and bred funds at harness racing racks, mile
18 thoroughbred racing tracks, and Timonium Race Course by this Act shall be in
19 addition to and may not supplant:

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

23 (2) Amounts otherwise provided in statute for purses and bred funds at
24 mile thoroughbred racing tracks and Timonium Race Course.

25 (f) The purses shall be distributed at mile thoroughbred racetracks and
26 Timonium Race Course according to a formula determined by the State Racing
27 Commission in consultation with the racetrack licensees and the organization that
28 represents a majority of owners and trainers of thoroughbred horses in the State.

29 SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 6 shall remain
30 effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, [2001] 2002 with no further
31 action required by the General Assembly, Section 6 shall be abrogated and of no
32 further force and effect.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
34 effect July 1, 2001.