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By: **Cecil County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Horse Racing at Fair Hill - Cecil County Breeders' Fair, Inc. - Takeout**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the percentage of money that the Cecil County Breeders'  
4 Fair, Inc., or its successor must deduct as takeout from the handle for horse  
5 races held at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area; and generally  
6 relating to racing at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article - Business Regulation  
9 Section 11-101(a), (e), and (u), and 11-701 through 11-703  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2004 Replacement Volume)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article - Business Regulation  
14 Section 11-704  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2004 Replacement Volume)

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

19 **Article - Business Regulation**

20 11-101.

21 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (e) "Handle" means the gross amount, less refunds, of money bet.

23 (u) "Takeout" means the part of the handle that is not returned to successful  
24 bettors but is otherwise allocated under this title.

1 11-701.

2 This subtitle applies only to the licensee that is the Cecil County Breeders' Fair,  
3 Inc., or its successor.

4 11-702.

5 (a) (1) The Commission shall issue a license to the Cecil County Breeders'  
6 Fair, Inc., or its successor to hold racing on at least 2 but not more than 8 one-day  
7 race meetings a year for steeplechase, hurdle, or flat racing at the Fair Hill Natural  
8 Resources Management Area.

9 (2) The racing shall be held on dates that the licensee chooses and the  
10 Commission approves.

11 (b) In conjunction with this racing, an agricultural fair with livestock entered  
12 for exhibition shall be held under the auspices of the State Fair Board on at least 1  
13 racing day.

14 (c) For each racing day, the licensee shall offer at least 1 steeplechase or  
15 hurdle race for each flat race, but an additional flat race may be substituted for a  
16 steeplechase race or hurdle race that is not filled.

17 (d) An officer of the licensee may not receive a salary or dividends from racing  
18 allowed under this subtitle.

19 (e) The licensee shall allocate to the Union Hospital of Cecil County all profits  
20 earned under this subtitle, including money from pari-mutuel betting, admission  
21 charges, and other receipts.

22 11-703.

23 The Commission may issue a license to the licensee to hold racing on 2 race  
24 meetings a year for quarter horse racing at the Fair Hill Natural Resources  
25 Management Area.

26 11-704.

27 (a) (1) The licensee shall deduct from the handle:

28 (i) all the breakage; and

29 (ii) [22%] 25%.

30 (2) From the [22%] 25% that the licensee deducts from the handle, 8% of  
31 the handle shall be paid to the Commission, which shall send it to the Comptroller to  
32 be credited to the Fair Hill Improvement Fund established in § 5-908 of the Natural  
33 Resources Article.

34 (b) Money that remains after deductions are made under subsection (a) of this  
35 section shall be returned as winnings to successful bettors.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 July 1, 2005.