

CHAPTER 356

(Senate Bill 817)

AN ACT concerning

**Thoroughbred Racing – Restrictions on Night and Sunday Racing – Repeal –
Pimlico Race Course Exception**

FOR the purpose of repealing certain restrictions on holding live thoroughbred racing at night and on Sundays by certain mile thoroughbred racing licensees; repealing a certain restriction on holding Sunday racing by the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Inc.; prohibiting a licensee from holding live racing at Pimlico Race Course after a certain time unless circumstances beyond the control of the licensee cause a delay; requiring the Maryland Jockey Club to hold meetings with certain persons to discuss security and lighting for the property of Pimlico Race Course and certain surrounding areas; requiring that a certain report be submitted to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to thoroughbred racing.

BY repealing

Article – Business Regulation

Section 11–504

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Business Regulation

Section 11–504

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

Article – Business Regulation

[11–504.

(a) (1) A licensee may hold live racing after 6:15 p.m. but not later than 9:00 p.m. if:

(i) circumstances beyond the control of the licensee cause a delay;

(ii) the racing day is of national prominence; or

(iii) the racing is approved by the harness track licensee whose track is closest to the licensee's track, the group that represents a majority of the owners and trainers who race horses at that harness track, and the group that represents a majority of the harness breeders in this State.

(2) A licensee may hold racing after 6:15 p.m. that consists of betting on races held at an out-of-state track, if the racing is:

(i) authorized under § 11-804 of this title; and

(ii) approved by the harness track licensee whose track is closest to the licensee's track, the group that represents a majority of the owners and trainers who race horses at that harness track, and the group that represents a majority of the harness breeders in this State.

(3) Notwithstanding any approval for racing after 6:15 p.m., electrical or artificial illumination, necessary for the purpose of holding live racing, may not be permitted at Pimlico Race Course.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection, a licensee in Allegany County may hold live or simulcast racing after 6:15 p.m., but not later than 11:30 p.m., unless circumstances beyond the control of the licensee cause a delay.

(b) (1) Mile thoroughbred racing may not be held on a Sunday unless:

(i) the Commission approves; and

(ii) the racing begins at noon or later.

(2) The Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Inc., may not hold a race on a Sunday except during the Maryland State Fair.]

11-504.

A LICENSEE MAY NOT HOLD LIVE RACING AT PIMLICO RACE COURSE AFTER 10:00 P.M. UNLESS CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE LICENSEE CAUSE A DELAY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Jockey Club shall hold meetings with the City of Baltimore and representatives of the neighborhoods in proximity to Pimlico Race Course to discuss security and lighting for the Pimlico Race Course property and the surrounding areas when live racing is scheduled after 6:15 p.m., with the exception of Preakness Day. The Maryland Jockey Club shall submit a report describing the discussions to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means on or before June 15, 2007.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2007.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2007.