

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Joint Resolution 2 (Senator Middleton, *et al.*)

Finance

Rules and Executive Nominations

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**The Jim McKay Maryland Million**

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This joint resolution urges the Maryland Million LTD to (1) rename the Maryland Million as the Jim McKay Maryland Million; (2) rename the winner's trophy awarded in the Maryland Million Classic Race in memory of Jim McKay; and (3) continue to annually sponsor the races at Laurel Park, unless specified circumstances prevent it or if another location is agreed upon.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The joint resolution does not directly affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Background:** Sportscaster and longtime Maryland resident Jim McKay founded the Maryland Million in 1986. McKay, best known as host of ABC's Wide World of Sports and television host of several Olympic Games, was an ardent supporter of Maryland horse racing. He died June 7, 2008.

Maryland Million Day is a one-day stakes program that offers purses totaling \$1.0 million and is designed to promote Maryland's horse breeding industry. The program is restricted to the nominated progeny of nominated stallions standing in the State. It is held in the fall of each year and may be held at either Laurel Park or Pimlico

Race Course. Since its inception the Maryland Million has become the second most important racing day in the State behind only the Preakness Stakes, which is the second jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown.

The Maryland Million LTD is an incorporated nonprofit organization that raises funds for and organizes the Maryland Million Day. The group raises funds in a variety of ways, including, corporate sponsorships, nomination fees, receiving a portion of the takeout from each regular mutual pool, as well as direct grants from the State. In fiscal 2009, the Maryland Million LTD received \$500,000 in direct grants from the State.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HJ 1 (Delegates Rosenberg and Hixson) – Rules and Executive Nominations.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; marylandthoroughbred.com; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 20, 2009  
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Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510