

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 598 (Delegate Ross)  
Ways and Means

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Horse Racing - Foaled Stakes Programs Races - Registration Requirements

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This bill alters one of the criteria by which a horse is registered with the Maryland Standardbred Race Fund Advisory Committee to enable the horse to start in a Foaled Stakes Program race. The bill specifies that a horse is eligible, provided it was foaled in Maryland, if it was conceived during the previous season by the horse's dam having been covered by a Maryland stallion registered with the advisory committee.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill will not affect the operations or finances of the Maryland Racing Commission.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful impact for horse owners if more horses are eligible for Foaled Stakes races.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** In order to be registered with the Maryland Standardbred Race Fund Advisory Committee and start in a Foaled Stakes Program race, a horse must be foaled in Maryland as shown by a foal certificate from the U.S. Trotting Association and (1) the breeder of the horse resided in Maryland for more than nine months prior to the registration; (2) the breeder of the horse keeps breeding stock continually in Maryland; (3) the horse was conceived *in Maryland* in the previous season; or (4) the horse's dam

was sent to Maryland to foal and after foaling was covered by a Maryland stallion during the season of the horse's birth.

**Background:** The Maryland Standardbred Race Fund was established in 1971 to encourage the standardbred industry in the State. The fund consists primarily of revenue from the percentage of the takeout from harness tracks as well as fees paid by owners, breeders, and stallion owners. Funds are allocated to purses for two sets of races, the Maryland Standardbred Fund (or the Foaled Stakes Program) and the Maryland Sire Stakes Program. Only standardbred horses foaled in Maryland may start in races under the Foaled Stakes Program, and only standardbred horses that are sired by a Maryland stallion may start in races under the Maryland Sire Stakes Program. A small percentage of funds are also allocated to very limited breeder and stallion awards.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 17, 2010  
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