

HOUSE BILL 856

C6

5lr1867

By: **Cecil County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Horse Racing – Distribution of Racetrack Facility Renewal Account Funds**
3 **– Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the distribution of certain funds available under the Racetrack
5 Facility Renewal Account; and generally relating to the Racetrack Facility Renewal
6 Account.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – State Government
9 Section 9–1A–29(a), (c), and (e)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – State Government
14 Section 9–1A–29(d) and (h)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – State Government**

20 9–1A–29.

21 (a) There is a Racetrack Facility Renewal Account under the authority of the
22 State Racing Commission.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(c) Except as provided in subsection (d)(1) of this section, funds from the Account shall be used to provide a grant to the holder of a license to hold a race meeting in the State for racetrack facility capital construction and improvements.

(d) (1) The amount of funds made available from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account shall be allocated as follows:

(i) [1. for fiscal year 2021, 80% to be deposited in the Racing and Community Development Facilities Fund established under § 10-657.3 of the Economic Development Article; and

2.] for fiscal year 2022 and thereafter, 80% to the State Lottery Fund established under § 9-120 of this title; and

(ii) **1. FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR THAT ROSECROFT RACEWAY IS USED FOR LIVE RACING**, subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, 20% to Rosecroft Raceway and Ocean Downs Race Course according to a formula established in regulations adopted by the State Racing Commission; **AND**

2. FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR AFTER ROSECROFT RACEWAY IS CLOSED AND NO LONGER USED FOR LIVE RACING, SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION:

A. 10% TO OCEAN DOWNS RACE COURSE; AND

B. 10% TO RACE COURSES WITHIN THE FAIR HILL NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA.

(2) Of the amount available to Rosecroft Raceway **OR THE RACE COURSES WITHIN THE FAIR HILL NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA** from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account under paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection[:

(i) the unencumbered fund balance, including accrued interest, existing as of June 30, 2020, shall be transferred to the Racing and Community Development Facilities Fund established under § 10-646.3 of the Economic Development Article; and

(ii)], subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, for fiscal year [2021] **2026** and each fiscal year thereafter, \$200,000 shall be transferred annually to Employ Prince George's, Inc. for workforce development and small, minority, and women-owned business development.

(3) (i) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the funds transferred to Employ Prince George's, Inc. shall supplement, and not supplant, funds otherwise available for Employ Prince George's, Inc.

1 (ii) If Employ Prince George's, Inc. is unable to expend the funds
2 transferred under paragraph [(2)(ii)] **(2)** of this subsection during the 12-month period
3 after which Employ Prince George's, Inc. received the funds, Employ Prince George's, Inc.
4 shall partner with similar organizations located within Prince George's County to expend
5 the balance of the funds from that period to encourage workforce development and small,
6 minority, and women-owned business development.

7 (4) For fiscal year 2026, the Governor shall include in the annual budget
8 bill an appropriation of \$4,500,000 to the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account to be made
9 available to Rosecroft Raceway.

10 (e) In order to obtain a grant, a holder of a license to hold a race meeting in the
11 State shall:

12 (1) submit a capital construction plan to be implemented within a specified
13 time frame to the State Racing Commission for approval; and

14 (2) provide and expend a matching fund.

15 (h) (1) The State Racing Commission shall adopt regulations to implement the
16 provisions of this section, including regulations to:

17 (i) address minimum criteria for the types of improvements to be
18 made by the holder of a license; and

19 (ii) establish a formula to allocate funds under subsection [(d)(2)]
20 **(D)(1)(II)1** of this section between Rosecroft Raceway and Ocean Downs Race Course.

21 (2) If Rosecroft Raceway is closed and no longer used for live racing the
22 unencumbered fund balance, including accrued interest, of the amount available to
23 Rosecroft Raceway from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account under subsection (d)(1)(ii)
24 of this section shall be made available, **EQUALLY**, to Ocean Downs Race Course **AND THE**
25 **RACE COURSES WITHIN THE FAIR HILL NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**
26 **AREA.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
28 1, 2025.