

# SENATE BILL 762

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CF 6lr3640

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By: Senator Guzzone

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Horse Racing – Racetrack Facility Renewal Account Grants – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing, rather than requiring, a certain racing licensee to receive  
4 a grant for a capital construction plan from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account  
5 without providing and expending a matching fund; requiring the racing licensee that  
6 receives the grant without providing and expending a matching fund to conduct live  
7 racing in the State for a certain number of years; requiring the State Racing  
8 Commission to recapture certain grant funds under certain circumstances and in a  
9 certain manner; and generally relating to grants from the Racetrack Facility  
10 Renewal Account.

11 BY renumbering

12 Article – State Government  
13 Section 9–1A–01(w–1) and (w–2)  
14 to be Section 9–1A–01(w–2) and (w–3), respectively  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

18 Article – State Government  
19 Section 9–1A–01(a) and 9–1A–29(a)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

22 BY adding to

23 Article – State Government  
24 Section 9–1A–01(w–1)  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

27 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   Article – State Government  
2                   Section 9–1A–09, 9–1A–28(h)(1), and 9–1A–29(b)(6), (c), (e), (f), and (h)  
3                   Annotated Code of Maryland  
4                   (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

5                   SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
6   That Section(s) 9–1A–01(w–1) and (w–2) of Article – State Government of the Annotated  
7   Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 9–1A–01(w–2) and (w–3), respectively.

8                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
9   as follows:

10                   **Article – State Government**

11                   9–1A–01.

12                   (a)     In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

13                   **(w–1) “RACING LICENSEE” MEANS THE HOLDER OF A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE**  
14                   **STATE RACING COMMISSION TO HOLD A RACE MEETING IN THE STATE UNDER**  
15                   **TITLE 11 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

16                   9–1A–09.

17                   [(a)    In this section, “racing licensee” means the holder of a license issued by the  
18   State Racing Commission to hold a race meeting in the State under Title 11 of the Business  
19   Regulation Article.]

20                   [(b)] (A)    As a condition of eligibility for funding under § 9–1A–29 of this subtitle,  
21   a racing licensee shall:

22                   (1)    (i)    1.     for Rosecroft Raceway, **FOR ANY YEAR THAT FUNDING IS**  
23   **PROVIDED**, conduct a minimum of 60 annual live racing days unless otherwise agreed to  
24   by the racing licensee and the organization that represents the majority of licensed  
25   standardbred owners and trainers in the State or unless the racing licensee is prevented  
26   by weather, acts of God, or other circumstances beyond the racing licensee’s control; and

27                   [(ii)] 2.     for Ocean Downs Racetrack, **FOR ANY YEAR THAT**  
28   **FUNDING IS PROVIDED**, conduct a minimum of 40 annual live racing days unless  
29   otherwise agreed to by the racing licensee and the organization that represents the majority  
30   of licensed standardbred owners and trainers in the State or unless the racing licensee is  
31   prevented by weather, acts of God, or other circumstances beyond the racing licensee’s  
32   control; AND

33                   (II)    **IF THE RACING LICENSEE RECEIVES FUNDING WITHOUT**  
34   **PROVIDING AND EXPENDING A MATCHING FUND, AGREE TO CONDUCT LIVE RACING**

1    **DAYS IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS AFTER THE CONSTRUCTION PLAN**  
2    **REQUIRED UNDER 9-1A-29(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE IS COMPLETE;**

3                    (2)    develop and submit to the State Racing Commission a multiyear plan  
4    to improve the quality and marketing of horse racing at racetrack locations owned or  
5    operated by the racing licensee in Maryland, which shall include:

6                    (i)    goals, indicators, and timelines for specific actions that will be  
7    taken by the racing licensee to improve the quality and marketing of the horse racing  
8    industry in Maryland; and

9                    (ii)   a master plan for capital improvements that reflects, at a  
10   minimum:

11                   1.    commitments that have been made to the State Racing  
12   Commission;

13                   2.    updates to any prior master plan specifically identifying  
14   capital improvements and expenditures made on or after January 1, 2018; and

15                   3.    an ongoing investment in capital maintenance and  
16   improvements in the horse racing facilities; **AND**

17                   (3)    for each year that funding is requested, spend at least the following  
18   minimum amounts for capital maintenance and improvements, which may include  
19   amounts provided as a matching fund **[as required] IF THE RACING LICENSEE ELECTS**  
20   **TO PROVIDE AND EXPEND A MATCHING FUND** under § 9-1A-29(e)(2) of this subtitle:

21                   (i)    for Rosecroft Raceway, \$300,000; and

22                   (ii)   for Ocean Downs Racetrack, \$300,000.

23                   **[(c)] (B)**   As part of the capital maintenance and improvement items in the plan  
24   submitted under subsection **[(b)(2)] (A)(2)** of this section, a racing licensee shall include  
25   any improvements necessary to ensure that the condition of any part of the racetrack  
26   facility where individuals reside is satisfactory for human habitation and meets minimum  
27   housing and sanitation standards in the county where the facility is located.

28                   **[(d)] (C)**   The plans required under subsection **[(b)] (A)** of this section shall also  
29   be provided to the Department of General Services and to the Legislative Policy Committee  
30   of the General Assembly.

31   9-1A-28.

32                   (h)    (1)   To obtain operating assistance under this section:

5 (ii) a [holder of a racing license to race] RACING LICENSEE at  
6 Rosecroft Raceway shall:

11 9-1A-29.

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

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

26 (1)] submit a capital construction plan to be implemented within a specified  
27 time frame to the State Racing Commission for approval[; and].

1                   **[(1)] (I)** in consultation with the Department of General Services,  
2 monitor the implementation of the approved capital construction plan; and

3                   **[(2)] (II)** make provisions for recapture of grant money if the capital  
4 construction plan is not implemented within the time frame approved by the State Racing  
5 Commission.

6                   **(2) IF A RACING LICENSEE RECEIVES A GRANT FOR A CAPITAL**  
7 **CONSTRUCTION PLAN WITHOUT EXPENDING A MATCHING FUND AND DOES NOT**  
8 **CONDUCT LIVE RACING DAYS IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS AFTER THE**  
9 **CONSTRUCTION PLAN IS COMPLETE, THE STATE RACING COMMISSION SHALL:**

10                   **(I) CALCULATE THE AMOUNT TO BE REPAYED ON A PRO RATA**  
11 **BASIS; AND**

12                   **(II) RECAPTURE THE GRANT MONEY IN THE AMOUNT AS**  
13 **CALCULATED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

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

16                   (i) address minimum criteria for the types of improvements to be  
17 made by the [holder of a license] RACING LICENSEE; [and]

18                   (ii) establish a formula to allocate funds under subsection (d)(2) of  
19 this section between Rosecroft Raceway and Ocean Downs Race Course; AND

20                   **(III) ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR A RACING LICENSEE THAT**  
21 **REQUESTS A GRANT FOR A CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PLAN WITHOUT EXPENDING A**  
22 **MATCHING FUND.**

23                   (2) If Rosecroft Raceway is closed and no longer used for live racing the  
24 unencumbered fund balance, including accrued interest, of the amount available to  
25 Rosecroft Raceway from the Racetrack Facility Renewal Account under subsection (d)(1)(ii)  
26 of this section shall be made available to Ocean Downs Race Course.

27                   SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
28 1, 2026.