

# SENATE BILL 762

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CF HB 1598

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By: ~~Senator Guzzone~~ **Senators Guzzone, Augustine, Corderman, Hettleman, King,  
Lewis Young, McCray, Rosapepe, Salling, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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)

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 BY adding to  
 2 Article – State Government  
 3 Section 9–1A–01(w–1)  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 7 Article – State Government  
 8 Section 9–1A–09, 9–1A–28(h)(1), and 9–1A–29(b)(6), (c), (e), (f), and (h)  
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

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

16 **Article – State Government**

17 9–1A–01.

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

19 **(W–1) “RACING LICENSEE” MEANS THE HOLDER OF A LICENSE ISSUED BY THE**  
 20 **STATE RACING COMMISSION TO HOLD A RACE MEETING IN THE STATE UNDER**  
 21 **TITLE 11 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

22 9–1A–09.

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

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

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

33 [(ii)] **2.** for Ocean Downs Racetrack, **FOR ANY YEAR THAT**  
 34 **FUNDING IS PROVIDED**, conduct a minimum of 40 annual live racing days unless

1 otherwise agreed to by the racing licensee and the organization that represents the majority  
2 of licensed standardbred owners and trainers in the State or unless the racing licensee is  
3 prevented by weather, acts of God, or other circumstances beyond the racing licensee's  
4 control; AND

5 **(II) IF THE RACING LICENSEE RECEIVES FUNDING WITHOUT**  
6 **PROVIDING AND EXPENDING A MATCHING FUND, ~~AGREE TO~~ CONDUCT LIVE RACING**  
7 **DAYS IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS AFTER THE CONSTRUCTION PLAN**  
8 **REQUIRED UNDER § 9-1A-29(E) OF THIS SUBTITLE IS COMPLETE;**

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

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

15 (ii) a master plan for capital improvements that reflects, at a  
16 minimum:

17 1. commitments that have been made to the State Racing  
18 Commission;

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

21 3. an ongoing investment in capital maintenance and  
22 improvements in the horse racing facilities; AND

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

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

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

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

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

4 9-1A-28.

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

6                            (i)        a [holder of a racing license to race] **RACING LICENSEE** at Ocean  
7 Downs Race Course or Rosecroft Raceway may apply to the Secretary of Labor for the  
8 reimbursement of expenditures made by the racing licensee to conduct the annual live  
9 racing schedule; and

10                            (ii)       a [holder of a racing license to race] **RACING LICENSEE** at  
11 Rosecroft Raceway shall:

12    1.        agree to rehire workers employed at the facility prior to  
13 the end of live racing on June 27, 2008; and

14    2.        recognize collective bargaining agreements that were in  
15 place as of June 1, 2008.

16 9-1A-29.

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

19            (b)    (6)    (i)        Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the State Racing  
20 Commission may use the services of a certified public accountant to review an eligible  
21 request for **OR THE EXPENDITURES OF** a grant under this section.

22                            (ii)       [The holder of a license to hold a race meeting in the State] **A**  
23 **RACING LICENSEE** that has requested a grant under this section shall reimburse the State  
24 Racing Commission for any expenditures for services under subparagraph (i) of this  
25 paragraph.

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

29            (e)    (1)        In order to obtain a grant, a [holder of a license to hold a race meeting  
30 in the State] **RACING LICENSEE** shall[:

31                            (1)]       submit a capital construction plan to be ~~implemented~~ **COMPLETED**  
32 within a specified time frame to the State Racing Commission for approval[; and].

1           (2) **SUBJECT TO § 9-1A-09(A)(1)(II) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE**  
2 **APPROVAL OF THE GRANT FOR THE CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PLAN BY THE STATE**  
3 **RACING COMMISSION, THE RACING LICENSEE MAY provide and expend a matching**  
4 fund.

5           (f) **(1)** After a grant has been provided under this section, the State Racing  
6 Commission shall:

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

9                           **(II) ON WRITTEN REQUEST FROM THE GRANTEE, IN**  
10 **CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES, CERTIFY IN**  
11 **WRITING THAT THE GRANTEE HAS COMPLETED THE APPROVED CAPITAL**  
12 **CONSTRUCTION PLAN; AND**

13           **[(2)] ~~(II)~~ (III)** make provisions for recapture of grant money if the capital  
14 construction plan is not ~~implemented~~ **COMPLETED** within the time frame approved by the  
15 State Racing Commission.

16           **(2) IF A RACING LICENSEE RECEIVES A GRANT FOR A CAPITAL**  
17 **CONSTRUCTION PLAN WITHOUT EXPENDING A MATCHING FUND AND DOES NOT**  
18 **COMPLETE THE CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PLAN OR CONDUCT LIVE RACING DAYS IN**  
19 **THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS AFTER THE CONSTRUCTION PLAN IS COMPLETE,**  
20 **THE STATE RACING COMMISSION SHALL:**

21                           **(I) IF THE RACING LICENSEE DOES NOT CONDUCT LIVE RACING**  
22 **DAYS IN THE STATE FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS AFTER THE CONSTRUCTION PLAN IS**  
23 **COMPLETE, CALCULATE THE AMOUNT TO BE REPAID ON A PRO RATA ~~BASIS; AND~~**  
24 **BASIS AND RECAPTURE THE GRANT MONEY; OR**

25                           **(II) RECAPTURE THE GRANT MONEY ~~IN THE AMOUNT AS~~**  
26 **CALCULATED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

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

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

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

1 (III) ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR A RACING LICENSEE THAT  
2 REQUESTS A GRANT FOR A CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PLAN WITHOUT EXPENDING A  
3 MATCHING FUND.

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

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
9 1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.