
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 2117 Session of
1978

INTRODUCED BY REED, PRATT AND MILLIRON, MARCH 13, 1978

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 13, 1978

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 11, 1967 (P.L.707, No.331),
2 entitled "An act providing for and regulating thoroughbred
3 horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering on the results
4 thereof, creating the State Horse Racing Commission as an
5 independent administrative commission and defining its powers
6 and duties; providing for the establishment and operation of
7 thoroughbred horse racing plants; imposing taxes on revenues
8 of such plants; disposing of all moneys received by the
9 commission and all moneys collected from the taxes;
10 authorizing penalties; and making appropriations," further
11 providing for officials at horse race meetings, for orders of
12 the commission and conforming the statute to existing law.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. Section 10, act of December 11, 1967 (P.L.707,
16 No.331), referred to as the State Horse Racing Law, is amended
17 to read:

18 Section 10. Officials at Thoroughbred Horse Race Meetings.--
19 At all thoroughbred horse race meetings licensed by the State
20 Horse Racing Commission in accordance with the provisions of
21 this act, qualified stewards, judges [and], starters and all
22 other racing officials shall be approved by the commission.
23 There shall be three stewards designated to supervise each race

1 meeting, one of whom shall be appointed by the commission and
2 designated as the State steward. The commission shall also have
3 the power to appoint a licensed veterinarian to serve as the
4 official State veterinarian at each such meet. Such officials
5 shall enforce the rules and regulations of the State Horse
6 Racing Commission and shall render regular written reports of
7 the activities and conduct of such race meetings to the State
8 Horse Racing Commission. The compensation of [such judges and
9 starters] all such officials shall be fixed by the State Horse
10 Racing Commission. [and] The compensation of the State steward
11 and veterinarian shall be paid by the commission. The
12 compensation of all other officials shall be paid by the
13 corporation conducting such race meeting.

14 Section 2. Section 20 of the act is amended to read:

15 Section 20. Hearing of Refusal or Revocation of License.--If
16 the State Horse Racing Commission shall refuse to grant a
17 license applied for under this act, or shall revoke or suspend
18 such a license granted by it, the applicant or licensee may
19 demand, within ten days after notice of the said act of the
20 commission, a hearing before the commission and the commission
21 shall give prompt notice of a time and place for such hearing at
22 which the commission will hear such applicant or licensee in
23 reference thereto. Pending such a hearing and final
24 determination thereon, the action of the commission in refusing
25 to grant or in revoking or suspending a license shall remain in
26 full force and effect. The commission may continue such hearing
27 from time to time for the convenience of any of the parties. Any
28 of the parties affected by such hearing may be represented by
29 counsel, and the commission shall be represented by the Attorney
30 General, or a deputy attorney general. In the conduct of such

1 hearing, the commission shall not be bound by technical rules of
2 evidence, but all evidence offered before the commission shall
3 be reduced to writing, and such evidence, together with the
4 exhibits, if any, and the findings of the commission shall be
5 permanently preserved and shall constitute the record of the
6 commission in such case. In connection with such hearing, the
7 commission shall have the power to administer oaths and examine
8 witnesses, and may issue subpoenas to compel attendance of
9 witnesses, and the production of all material and relevant
10 reports, books, papers, documents, correspondence and other
11 evidence. The commission may, if occasion shall require, by
12 order, refer to one or more of its officers the duty of taking
13 testimony in such matter, and to report thereon to the
14 commission, but no determination shall be made therein except by
15 the commission. Within [thirty days] a reasonable period of time
16 after the conclusion of such hearing, the commission shall make
17 a final order in writing, setting forth the reasons for the
18 action taken by it and a copy thereof shall be served on such
19 applicant or licensee, as the case may be. The action of the
20 commission in refusing to grant a license or in revoking or
21 suspending a license shall be reviewable by the [Court of Common
22 Pleas of Dauphin County as provided in the act of June 4, 1945
23 (P.L.1388), known as the "Administrative Agency Law."]
24 Commonwealth Court as provided in the act of July 31, 1970
25 (P.L.673, No.223), known as the "Appellate Court Jurisdiction
26 Act of 1970."

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.