

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 552

Session of  
1981

INTRODUCED BY SERAFINI, COSLETT, DORR, BELARDI, BLAUM, TIGUE  
AND CAWLEY, FEBRUARY 10, 1981

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,  
FEBRUARY 10, 1981

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 22, 1959 (P.L.1978, No.728),  
2 entitled, as amended, "An act providing for and regulating  
3 harness racing with pari-mutuel wagering on the results  
4 thereof; creating the State Harness Racing Commission as a  
5 departmental administrative commission within the Department  
6 of Agriculture and defining its powers and duties; providing  
7 for the establishment and operation of harness racing plants  
8 subject to local option; imposing taxes on revenues of such  
9 plants; disposing of all moneys received by the commission  
10 and all moneys collected from the taxes; authorizing  
11 penalties; and making appropriations," further providing for  
12 the number of days in a calendar year for which corporations  
13 may be licensed to conduct harness racing.

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

16 Section 1. Section 5, act of December 22, 1959 (P.L.1978,  
17 No.728), referred to as the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Law,  
18 amended January 2, 1973 (1972 P.L.1737, No.374), is amended to  
19 read:

20 Section 5. Pari-mutuel Betting at Harness Races.--No more  
21 than five corporations shall be licensed by the State Harness  
22 Racing Commission in any one year to conduct a pari-mutuel meet

1 or meets. No corporation shall be licensed to conduct harness  
2 racing for more than one hundred days in any calendar year. The  
3 commission may at its discretion, upon the written request of a  
4 licensed corporation, grant to such licensed corporation an  
5 additional number of racing days in any calendar year but in no  
6 case shall any additional grant exceed fifty additional racing  
7 days. If a licensed corporation loses racing days due to reasons  
8 beyond their control, the commission may grant them additional  
9 racing days to make up for those they lost in the next  
10 succeeding year. Said pari-mutuel betting conducted at such  
11 meeting shall be under the general supervision and control of  
12 the State Harness Racing Commission which shall make rules  
13 regulating the conduct of such pari-mutuel betting in accordance  
14 with the provisions of this act. The Department of Revenue is  
15 charged with the financial administration of pari-mutuel betting  
16 as prescribed in this act and as supplemented by the rules and  
17 regulations of the State Harness Racing Commission. The  
18 Department of Revenue shall have authority to prescribe the  
19 forms and the system of accounting to be employed, and through  
20 its representatives shall, at all times, have power of access  
21 to, and examination of, any equipment relating to such betting.  
22 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.