
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 556

Session of
1971

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. O'BRIEN AND MUSTO, MARCH 29, 1971

SENATOR CIANFRANI, FINANCE, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED,
DECEMBER 7, 1971

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 22, 1959 (P.L.1978), entitled, as
2 amended, "An act providing for and regulating harness racing
3 with pari-mutuel wagering on the results thereof; creating
4 the State Harness Racing Commission as a departmental
5 administrative commission within the Department of
6 Agriculture and defining its powers and duties; providing for
7 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," imposing an additional
12 tax for school purposes ~~in certain school districts.~~ <—

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

15 Section 1. Section 15, act of December 22, 1959 (P.L.1978),
16 entitled, as amended, "An act providing for and regulating
17 harness racing with pari-mutuel wagering on the results thereof;
18 creating the State Harness Racing Commission as a departmental
19 administrative commission within the Department of Agriculture
20 and defining its powers and duties; providing for the
21 establishment and operation of harness racing plants subject to
22 local option; imposing taxes on revenues of such plants;

1 disposing of all moneys received by the commission and all
2 moneys collected from the taxes; authorizing penalties; and
3 making appropriations," amended August 7, 1969 (P.L.225), is
4 amended to read:

5 Section 15. Disposition of Pari-mutuel Pools.--Every
6 corporation authorized under this act to conduct pari-mutuel
7 betting at a harness horse race meeting on races run thereat
8 shall distribute all sums deposited in any pari-mutuel pool to
9 the holders of winning tickets therein, provided such tickets be
10 presented for payment before April first of the year following
11 the year of their purchase, less fifteen per centum of the total
12 deposits plus the breaks, and as to harness horse race meetings
13 held within school districts of the first class during the years
14 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971 less
15 seventeen per centum of the total desposits plus the breaks, and
16 as to ALL OTHER harness horse race meetings held within school <—
17 districts of the second class during the year 1971 and
18 thereafter less seventeen per centum of the total deposits plus
19 the breaks. At the close of each racing day, the permit holder
20 out of the amount retained on said day by said permit holder,
21 shall pay, through the Department of Revenue into the State
22 Treasury for credit to the State Harness Racing Fund, a tax of
23 five per centum of the amount wagered each day, which tax is
24 hereby imposed, and as to harness horse race meetings held
25 within school districts of the first class during the years
26 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971 the
27 permit holder shall pay the school district in which the harness
28 horse race meeting is held a tax of two per centum of the amount
29 wagered each day, which tax is hereby imposed for general school
30 purposes and as to ALL OTHER harness horse race meetings held <—

1 ~~within school districts of the second class during the year 1971~~ <—
2 ~~and thereafter the permit holder shall pay the school district,~~ <—
3 ~~in which the harness horse race meeting is held, or if in a~~
4 ~~reorganized school district, then to the unit of that district~~
5 ~~in which such meeting is held, a tax of two per centum of the~~
6 ~~amount wagered each day, which tax is hereby imposed for school~~
7 ~~purposes,~~ TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH SUCH <—
8 MEETING IS HELD, A TAX OF TWO PER CENTUM OF THE AMOUNT WAGERED
9 EACH DAY, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO RECEIVE THAT PROPORTION OF THE
10 TOTAL, WHICH ITS PUPIL POPULATION BEARS TO THE PUPIL POPULATION
11 OF THE COUNTY, WHICH TAX IS HEREBY IMPOSED FOR GENERAL SCHOOL
12 PURPOSES, and as to [other] permit holders, EXCEPT IN CITIES OF <—
13 THE FIRST CLASS, a tax of two per centum of the amount wagered
14 each day is imposed and shall be paid to the Department of
15 Commerce to be distributed by the Secretary of Commerce to
16 eligible boroughs having a population of less than ten thousand,
17 eligible townships having a population of less than twelve
18 thousand, each of their municipality authorities, or county
19 authorities authorized to service the borough or township, for
20 projects providing for the construction, rehabilitation,
21 alteration, expansion, or improvement of water facilities,
22 sewage disposal facilities and access roads, in amounts not to
23 exceed twenty-five per centum of the cost thereof, in accordance
24 with regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce and
25 approved by the Governor. No distribution shall be made in
26 connection with any project unless it is determined that the
27 project:

28 (1) Is not in conflict with programs of other departments of
29 the Commonwealth;

30 (2) Is not inconsistent with an existing development plan

1 for the municipality;

2 (3) Could not otherwise be financed;

3 (4) Will either strengthen the income-producing capability
4 of the municipality, or improve the health and safety of the
5 community; and

6 (5) Is necessary to orderly community development.

7 In addition, each permit holder shall be allowed to retain
8 the odd cents of all redistribution to be made on all mutuel
9 contributions exceeding a sum equal to the next lowest multiple
10 of ten, subject to a tax of fifty per centum of the total sum of
11 such odd cents, which tax is hereby imposed and shall be paid by
12 the permit holder to the Department of Revenue for credit to the
13 Pennsylvania Sire Stakes Funds, which fund is hereby
14 appropriated to the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission for
15 distribution in accordance with the terms of this act.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.