

CHAPTER 468
(Senate Bill 571)

AN ACT to require the State Racing Commission to study possible consolidation of certain racetracks and licensees in Maryland and provide generally for the scope, purpose, and use of this study; AND REQUIRING THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEFORE ANY PLAN PRESENTED BY THE RACING COMMISSION MAY BE IMPLEMENTED OR PUT INTO EFFECT; AND MAKING PROVISION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY.

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland wishes to strengthen and improve racing and the racing industry in this State.

Racing in Maryland is a product of long tradition. It reaches far back into Colonial days and in the annals and histories of the colony and early State of Maryland there are many references to horse racing and the interest and enthusiasm it stirred throughout Maryland.

For many years, the sport has been highly organized in this State and subject to intensive regulation by the Maryland State Racing Commission.

From time to time, the General Assembly has set up study commissions to investigate the racing industry and to make recommendations about its possible change and improvement.

The most recent such study was by a committee on racing appointed by the Legislative Council under the chairmanship of Senator James Clark which reported near the end of the year 1969.

One of the recommendations made by the Clark Committee was the possible consolidation of some of the mile tracks in Maryland, in the interest of economy, good management, and the meeting of out-of-state competition.

The General Assembly of Maryland now believes that consolidation of one-mile racing at two tracks in Maryland would be advisable and prudent for this State under an appropriately conceived scheme. The first necessity, of course, is that of a study and compilation to get the facts and materials necessary for a properly conceived scheme of consolidation; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the State Racing Commission is directed to study the possible consolidation of Maryland one-mile tracks so that all such racing would be performed on not more than two Maryland tracks. The Racing Commission shall present a plan to the Governor and the General Assembly of Maryland under which consolidation of the one-mile tracks may be accomplished. The plan shall be submitted not later than ~~October 1, 1971~~ JANUARY 1, 1972. Its details and procedure shall be consistent with the State's need for revenue and the necessity for meeting out-of-state competition, and the plan shall be consistent also with private investments in racing tracks and their