

Signed May 12, 1981.

No. 8

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 51)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning
Off-Track Wagering

FOR the purpose of appointing a task force to study off-track wagering and its probable social and economic effects on the residents of Maryland; and requesting the submission of a report prior to a certain date.

WHEREAS, The noble sport of horse racing is a tradition of which Maryland is most proud; and

WHEREAS, The racing industry contributes approximately \$600,000,000 to the State's economy, provides gainful employment for thousands of State residents, contributes millions of dollars in revenue to the State Treasury, and is the source of substantial funds for a number of the State's local subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, The economic pressures placed upon the racing industry in this State by runaway inflation, competition from out-of-state tracks, and other in-state and out-of-state forms of gambling have placed the racing industry in a state of severe financial crisis; and

WHEREAS, Off-Track Wagering instituted by a system that is operated efficiently and regulated with the highest degree of integrity, ~~could present~~ might provide a viable solution to the current financial problems, and avoid the further decline of Maryland's racing industry; and

WHEREAS, The systems of off-track wagering are many and varied, and a comprehensive study is needed to determine exactly what form of off-track betting would be most appropriate for Maryland; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is hereby requested to appoint a task force to study the various facets and forms of off-track wagering, including the types of persons who could be expected to participate in off-track wagering, the probable long-term socio-economic consequences of off-track wagering, the probability of involvement of organized crime in off-track wagering, and the possible effect of off-track wagering on illegal gambling and on revenues generated by the Maryland State Lottery, with professional research assistance provided by one or more of the universities in the State,