

~~WHEREAS,--Maryland's racing and breeding industries generate nearly one-billion-dollars-annually-and-employ-19,000-people,-and~~

~~WHEREAS,--The revitalization of this industry and--assistance in--helping--it--meet--the--challenge--of--increased--competition--from neighboring--states--is--in--the--best--interest--of--the--general--welfare and--economic--health--of~~

The General Assembly finds that horse racing has a major role in the State's economy and in order to maintain the quality of horse racing in Maryland and to enable the race tracks to compete with tracks in other states, it is necessary to provide additional funds for the purse structure and for improvements at the race tracks. The State's share of the pari-mutuel betting is being reduced to provide additional funds for those purposes. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the additional funds be used to increase the purse structure, to improve the facilities at the race tracks, to increase the quality of services provided to the racing patrons and increase marketing, public relations and promotions to enhance the image of racing in Maryland. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the race tracks utilize the funds to minimize the adverse impact of racing on the communities adjacent to the race tracks, and for these purposes, this Act is proposed; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 78B - Racing Commission

7.

(a) Any person or persons, association or corporation, desiring to conduct racing within the State of Maryland during any calendar year, shall apply to the Maryland Racing Commission for a license so to do. Such application shall be filed with the [secretary] EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the Commission on or before a day to be fixed by the Commission. Such application shall specify the days on which such racing is desired to be conducted or held, and such application shall be in such form and supply such data and information as the said Maryland Racing Commission shall prescribe.

(b) Said Racing Commission shall, as soon as practicable, award all dates for racing in the State of Maryland on or before December 1 of each year for racing for the ensuing year. The said dates so awarded shall not exceed [one hundred and eighty (180)] 216 days. The Commission [in its discretion on or before December 1 of each year] may also award an additional [forty-eight (48)] 80 days for racing for the ensuing year.. [Said forty-eight (48)] THE 80 days of racing may be awarded under such terms and conditions as the Commission may prescribe for any substantial alterations, additions, changes, improvements or major repairs to