

Maryland, unless on such tracks or places for holding races, races have been run or held at least once in every year for a period of three consecutive years immediately prior to May 6, 1943, it being the intent, purpose and effect of this section to insure that no new or additional tracks or places for holding or conducting races shall be licensed or awarded dates; provided, however, that if the Maryland Jockey Club OF BALTIMORE CITY, INC., the Southern Maryland Agricultural Association, or the Laurel [Race Course] RACING ASSOCIATION ASSOC., Inc., respectively, shall permanently abandon for racing purposes the Pimlico Track[, the Bowie Track,] or the Laurel Track, the association so abandoning the track at which it has heretofore regularly conducted race meetings under the authority of this article and this section may be licensed and awarded dates for the holding or conducting of races or race meetings at a new track location in the State approved by legislative enactment.

(e) The Commission shall hold a public hearing at a location not more than ten miles from the track and shall permit any person to testify for or against the award of the additional racing dates before it grants to any person, corporation, or association a license to operate any track for the purpose of holding races (1) for a number of days, 3 days or more, in excess of the number of days previously awarded by the Commission for racing at that track during the previous year; or (2) by the transfer of racing dates to that track from another track during that year. Notice of the hearing shall be published by the Commission in one or more newspapers having a substantial circulation in the county in which the racetrack is located at least 15 days prior to the hearing. The Commission shall also endeavor to notify any public or private agency or organization of the hearing upon the written request of that agency or organization to the Commission.

(f) [(1) For calendar year 1985 and all subsequent years, the Commission shall award 32 of the 42 days that were awarded in calendar year 1984 to the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Incorporated, for running at the Timonium Track, to the tracks that are authorized by this section to conduct mile racing in the State.

(2) The days awarded under this subsection shall be subject to all of the provisions of this article applicable to mile racing days.

(3) The award of any racing days by the Commission under this subsection (f) constitutes a license of these days to the tracks to which the days are awarded and does not provide any right of ownership in the days to any track or any other person.]

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STAKES RACE KNOWN AS THE PREAKNESS STAKES TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, IF THE PREAKNESS STAKES IS TRANSFERRED TO BE RUN OUTSIDE THE STATE, THE COMMISSION MAY REVOKE ANY DAYS OF RACING AWARDED TO THE MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB OF BALTIMORE CITY, INC., OR ITS SUCCESSORS IN