

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1997.

Approved May 22, 1997.

**CHAPTER 750**

**(House Bill 315)**

AN ACT concerning

**Horse Racing — Taxes — Purses**

FOR the purpose of ~~repealing~~ altering the taxes on certain amounts bet on certain thoroughbred and harness races; requiring certain licensees to alter the percentage of money that is allocated to purses from certain amounts bet on certain races; providing for the allocation for harness racing purses; altering the distribution of proceeds from the State Lottery Fund for a certain fiscal year; requiring that a certain amount of revenue that would otherwise be paid to the General Fund be distributed to a special fund to be used only to increase purses at harness racing tracks and mile thoroughbred racing tracks in the State; requiring the Governor by budgetary amendment to allocate money from the special fund to increase purses offered at harness racing tracks and mile thoroughbred racing tracks in the State; requiring that the purses be increased according to a certain formula; requiring that all funds for purses under this Act be in addition to and not supplant certain other funds; requiring the Governor to create a commission to study ways to improve the financial viability of the racing industry; providing for the membership, duties, and staffing of the commission; requiring the commission to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to ~~taxes and purses allocated from amounts bet on certain thoroughbred and harness races~~ horse racing in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Business Regulation

Section 11-515, 11-614, and 11-616

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1992 Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

**Article - Business Regulation**

11-515.

(a) Except as provided in §§ 11-515.1 and 11-516 of this subtitle, the takeout that a licensee deducts from the handle of a race shall be allocated in accordance with this section.