



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 311

S.P. 132

In Senate, January 30, 2023

An Act to Amend Certain Laws Governing Pari-Mutuel Pools on Harness Racing

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative CRAY of Palmyra and
Representatives: HALL of Wilton, JACKSON of Oxford, MORIARTY of Cumberland.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this bill amends certain provisions of law governing harness racing,
4 including clarifying the regulation of the sale of pari-mutuel pools and common pari-
5 mutuel pools for simulcast races; and

6 **Whereas,** it is important that this legislation take effect immediately in order for these
7 changes to be in place before the beginning of the next harness racing season; and

8 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
9 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
10 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
11 therefore,

12 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

13 **Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §275-A, sub-§3-B** is enacted to read:

14 **3-B. Enclosure.** "Enclosure" means all contiguous land and buildings owned or leased
15 by a commercial track as indicated on the licensee's application for a license under this
16 chapter.

17 **Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §275-B, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 406, §3, is amended
18 by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

19 This subsection is repealed January 1, ~~2024~~ 2026.

20 **Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §278** is amended to read:

21 **§278. Minors**

22 ~~No~~ A minor, whether attending a race or employed in any manner on or about a ~~rac~~
23 ~~track~~ racetrack, ~~shall~~ may not be permitted to participate in any pari-mutuel pool or be
24 admitted to any pari-mutuel ~~enclosure~~ sales area.

25 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
26 takes effect when approved.

27 SUMMARY

28 This bill amends the laws governing harness racing to clarify that, for the purpose of
29 the sale of pari-mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools for simulcast races, the
30 enclosure of a racetrack consists of all contiguous land and buildings owned or leased by a
31 commercial track. The bill also delays the repeal of the law governing the sale of pari-
32 mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools for simulcast races to January 1, 2026.