

SENATE, No. 3091

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Provides \$1 million in funding to NJ Racing Commission for five-year grant program for purpose of supporting certain organizations that care for retired horses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a five-year grant program for the care of
2 retired Standardbred and Thoroughbred horses and making an
3 appropriation.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 The horse racing industry is economically important to this State,
10 and the general welfare of the people of the State will be promoted
11 by the advancement of horse racing and related projects and
12 facilities in the State.

13 In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the horse racing
14 industry conducted over 2,000 races and the total handle wagered in
15 New Jersey amounted to approximately \$1 billion.

16 The horse racing industry generates millions of dollars in tax
17 revenue each year for the State, employs thousands of workers, and
18 operates three historical racetracks.

19 The horses that run in these races are the backbone of the horse
20 racing industry and the main reason hundreds of thousands of fans
21 come out to support the racetracks each year.

22 While the horse racing industry and respective associations do
23 support their retired horses through various programs, including
24 charity racing days, more can be done.

25 The racehorses that drive these profits and benefits to the State
26 deserve to be cared for in their retirement.

27 The care for retired horses is an important matter of public
28 policy and, therefore, it is appropriate for the State to establish a
29 grant program for the purpose of supporting certain organizations
30 that care for retired horses.

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32 2. a. The New Jersey Racing Commission shall establish a five-
33 year grant program for the purpose of providing funds to assist with
34 the care of retired horses. In establishing the five-year program, the
35 commission shall develop an application by which accredited
36 organizations may apply for grants pursuant to this section and
37 develop the criteria the commission will utilize to award the grants.

38 b. (1) To be considered for the grants, an applicant shall be a
39 nonprofit organization operating under 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3) of the
40 federal Internal Revenue Code and shall be fully accredited by the
41 Standardbred Transition Alliance, Standardbred Retirement
42 Foundation, or Second Call Thoroughbred Adoption and Placement,
43 dependent upon the breed primarily being rescued and re-homed by
44 the accredited organization.

45 (2) The requirements for the evaluation of each applicant shall
46 include, but need not be limited to,:

47 a statement of need;

48 demonstration of financial stability and operational transparency;

1 evidence of qualified and experienced horsepersons attending to
2 each horse's needs;

3 documentation of well-developed screening policies to ensure
4 proper placement of horses;

5 evidence that the applicant maintains national standards of best
6 practices for the industry, which may include the Care Guidelines
7 for Equine Rescue and Retirement Facilities promulgated by the
8 American Association of Equine Practitioners; and

9 written commitment to ensure funds provided through this
10 program will only be used for the care of New Jersey-bred horses,
11 or horses with a parent being a New Jersey-bred broodmare or New
12 Jersey-bred stallion, or both.

13 c. The New Jersey Racing Commission shall provide notice of
14 the availability of funding for this program, including notifying the
15 Standardbred Transition Alliance, Standardbred Retirement
16 Foundation, and Second Call Thoroughbred Adoption and
17 Placement of the program. The commission shall make the
18 application for the grants available on the commission's website,
19 including the ability to submit the application and any necessary
20 documentation electronically.

21 d. (1) The New Jersey Racing Commission shall award
22 \$100,000 to a qualified organization dedicated to the care of retired
23 Standardbred horses and \$100,000 to an accredited organization
24 dedicated to the care of retired Thoroughbred horses each year for
25 the next five years following the effective date of this act, P.L. , c.
26 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). In a given year, the
27 commission shall not award more than \$200,000 in grant funding
28 from the program established by this act.

29 (2) After considering the applicants, if the New Jersey Racing
30 Commission determines that the applicants in a given year do not
31 meet the requirements pursuant to this act, the available funding for
32 that year may be distributed in equal shares as determined by the
33 commission to promote the care of retired Standardbred horses and
34 the care of Thoroughbred horses.

35 (3) Following the expiration of the five-year grant program
36 established by this section, any unexpended funds shall be returned
37 to the General Fund.

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39 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the New
40 Jersey Racing Commission the sum of \$1,000,000 to effectuate the
41 purposes of this act.

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43 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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48 This bill requires the NJ Racing Commission to establish a five-

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1 year grant program for the purpose of providing funds to assist with
2 the care of retired horses.

3 Under the bill, to be considered for the grants, an applicant must
4 be a nonprofit organization operating under 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3) of
5 the federal Internal Revenue Code and be fully accredited by the
6 Standardbred Transition Alliance (STA), Standardbred Retirement
7 Foundation (SRF), or Second Call Thoroughbred Adoption and
8 Placement (Second Call). The requirements for the evaluation of
9 each applicant must include, but need not be limited to:

10 a statement of need;

11 a demonstration of financial stability and operational
12 transparency;

13 evidence of qualified and experienced horsepersons attending to
14 each horse's needs; and

15 documentation of well-developed screening policies to ensure
16 proper placement of horses;

17 evidence that the applicant maintains national standards of best
18 practices for the industry, which may include the Care Guidelines
19 for Equine Rescue and Retirement Facilities promulgated by the
20 American Association of Equine Practitioners; and

21 a written commitment to ensure funds provided through this
22 program will only be used for the care of New Jersey-bred horses,
23 or horses with a parent being a New Jersey-bred broodmare or New
24 Jersey-bred stallion, or both.

25 The bill also requires the NJ Racing Commission to provide
26 notice of the availability of funding for this program, including
27 notifying the STA, SRF, and Second Call of the program, and make
28 the application available on the commission's website.

29 The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the NJ Racing
30 Commission the sum of \$1,000,000 to establish and implement the
31 grant program. The NJ Racing Commission would provide
32 \$100,000 to an accredited organization dedicated to the care of
33 retired Standardbred horses and \$100,000 to an accredited
34 organization dedicated to the care of retired Thoroughbred horses
35 each year for the next five years, which totals \$1,000,000 over a
36 five-year period.

37 Under the bill, after considering the applicants, if the New Jersey
38 Racing Commission determines that the applicants in a given year
39 do not meet the requirements under the bill, the available funding
40 for that year may be distributed in equal shares as determined by the
41 commission to promote the care of retired Standardbred horses and
42 the care of Thoroughbred horses. Following the expiration of the
43 five-year grant program established by the bill, any unexpended
44 funds would be returned to the General Fund.