

ASSEMBLY, No. 5090

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Reallocates standardbred horse racing purse subsidies from Freehold Raceway to Meadowlands Racetrack under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT concerning standardbred horse racing purse subsidies and
2 amending P.L.2019, c.36.

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

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.36 (C.5:5-99.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. There shall be appropriated out of the General Fund of the
10 State in the current fiscal year 2019 and in each of the ten fiscal
11 years thereafter \$20,000,000 annually to the New Jersey Racing
12 Commission to be used for horse racing purse subsidies. These
13 amounts shall be allocated by the New Jersey Racing Commission
14 equally between the thoroughbred industry and the standardbred
15 industry. Of the funds allocated to the thoroughbred industry, 100
16 percent shall be allocated to Monmouth Park overnight purses. Of
17 the funds allocated to the standardbred industry, 60 percent shall be
18 allocated to Meadowlands overnight purses; 16 percent to Freehold
19 overnight purses; 12 percent to the New Jersey Sire Stakes purses; 6
20 percent to purse bonuses for New Jersey sired horses; and 6 percent
21 for breeders awards purses; except that, in the event that live racing
22 programs cease to be conducted by the permit holder at Freehold
23 Raceway, the New Jersey Horse Racing Commission shall
24 reallocate to Meadowlands overnight purses any and all funds
25 allocated to Freehold overnight purses pursuant to this section until
26 such time as a permit holder resumes live racing programs at
27 Freehold Raceway.

28 (cf: P.L.2024, c.76, s.1)

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill directs the New Jersey Racing Commission to reallocate
36 to Meadowlands overnight purses any and all overnight purse
37 subsidies previously allocated to Freehold overnight purses during
38 periods of time when there are no live racing programs being
39 conducted at Freehold Raceway. Under current law, of the funds
40 allocated to the standardbred industry, 16 percent are allocated to
41 Freehold overnight purses and 60 percent are allocated to
42 Meadowlands overnight purses.

43 This bill responds to the recent news that Freehold Raceway
44 would be closing and ceasing all live racing programs at the end of
45 2024. In the event that a horse racing permit holder begins

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 conducting live racing programs at Freehold Raceway in the future,
2 the terms of this bill would allow for the 16 percent share of purse
3 subsidies to be allocated to the standardbred industry as Freehold
4 overnight purses.

5 This bill does not affect the purse subsidy allocations made
6 under current law to the thoroughbred industry, or to the
7 standardbred industry's Sire Stakes program, bonuses for New
8 Jersey sired horses, or for breeder awards.