



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 408

H.P. 326

House of Representatives, February 8, 2011

Resolve, To Study the Sustainability of the Harness Racing Industry

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative CRAY of Palmyra.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, CEBRA of Naples, GIFFORD of Lincoln, McFADDEN of Dennysville.

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,** the Commission To Study the Sustainability of the Harness Racing
4 Industry is established to review the financial viability of the harness racing industry in
5 the State including fairs with harness racing, commercial tracks, off-track betting
6 facilities, the horse breeders program and racing in general and their relationship to the
7 distribution of the traditional harness racing handle; and

8 **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that
9 the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next
10 legislative session; and

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

15 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission To Study
16 the Sustainability of the Harness Racing Industry, referred to in this resolve as "the
17 commission," is established; and be it further

18 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
19 11 members appointed as follows:

20 1. Two members of the Senate, one member of the party holding the highest number
21 of seats appointed by the President of the Senate and one member of the party holding the
22 2nd highest number of seats appointed by the Senate Minority Leader. At least one
23 Senate member must be serving on the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture,
24 Conservation and Forestry;

25 2. Two members of the House of Representatives, one member of the party holding
26 the highest number of seats appointed by the Speaker of the House and one member of
27 the party holding the 2nd highest number of seats appointed by the House Minority
28 Leader. At least one House member must be serving on the Joint Standing Committee on
29 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;

30 3. Two members appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural
31 Resources, one recommended by each of the commercial harness racing tracks;

32 4. Two members recommended by off-track betting facilities and appointed by the
33 Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources;

34 5. Two members recommended by an association of horsemen and appointed by the
35 Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; and

36 6. One member who is a racing director for an agricultural fair recommended by a
37 statewide agricultural fair association and appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture,
38 Food and Rural Resources; and be it further

1 the distribution of the traditional harness racing handle and its impact on the financial
2 viability of all aspects of the harness racing industry.