



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 860

H.P. 628

House of Representatives, March 8, 2021

An Act To Clarify the Laws Concerning Off-track Betting Facility Licenses

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WHITE of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and
Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, ORDWAY of Standish,
Senator: DIAMOND of Cumberland.

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

Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §275-D, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 528, §24, is amended to read:

10. License nontransferable absent approval. An off-track betting facility license issued is not transferable or assignable unless the transferee or assignee applies to the commission for approval of the transfer or assignment. The commission may deny approval for the reasons set forth in subsection 5, paragraph D, subparagraphs (2) to (6).

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §275-D, sub-§14 is enacted to read:

14. All off-track betting facilities subject to same laws. A person licensed to operate an off-track betting facility under Public Law 2019, chapter 626, section 16 is deemed for all purposes to have been licensed under this section as of the date the commission awarded the license under Public Law 2019, chapter 626, section 16 and has the same rights and privileges and is subject to the statutes and rules applicable to the holder of a license issued under this section as of that date.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the transfer or assignment of an off-track betting facility license if the transfer or assignment is approved by the State Harness Racing Commission after applying to the transferee or assignee the tests generally applicable to the fitness of original licensees.

The bill also clarifies that persons licensed to operate off-track betting facilities under Public Law 2019, chapter 626, section 16, which allowed commercial tracks that closed in order to further the interests of the harness racing industry to be licensed as off-track betting facilities, are subject to the same laws and have the same rights and responsibilities as off-track betting facilities licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 275-D.