



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2260

S.P. 977

In Senate, March 12, 2024

An Act to Update the Laws Regarding the Sale of Pari-mutuel Pools for Simulcast Races

Reported by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec for the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 440, section 13.

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

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

2 **Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §275-B, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 142, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Racetracks.** A person licensed pursuant to section 271 to conduct harness horse
5 racing with pari-mutuel betting may sell pari-mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools
6 for simulcast races. ~~The seller must be within the enclosure of the racetrack where the~~
7 ~~licensed race or race meet is conducted or within the licensee's slot machine facilities~~
8 ~~licensed pursuant to section 1011.~~ Pari-mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools for
9 simulcast races may be sold only:

10 A. Within the enclosure of the racetrack where the licensed race or race meet is
11 conducted;

12 B. Within the racing licensee's slot machine facilities licensed pursuant to section
13 1011;

14 C. Within facilities owned or controlled by federally recognized Indian tribes in the
15 State; or

16 D. Within facilities owned or leased by the racing licensee and approved by the
17 commission and the municipality in which the facility is located.

18 **Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §275-B, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 51, §1, is repealed.

19 **Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §275-C, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 406, §4, is further
20 amended to read:

21 **1. Authority.** A person authorized to sell pari-mutuel pools on horse racing may sell
22 common pari-mutuel pools for simulcast races. ~~The sale must be conducted within the~~
23 ~~enclosure of the licensee's racetrack, at the licensee's slot machine facilities licensed~~
24 ~~pursuant to section 1011, at the licensee's off-track betting facility or at a facility approved~~
25 ~~by the commission in accordance with section 275-B, subsection 3.~~ The sale may be
26 conducted only:

27 A. Within the enclosure of the racing licensee's racetrack;

28 B. Within the racing licensee's slot machine facilities licensed pursuant to section
29 1011;

30 C. Within facilities owned or controlled by federally recognized Indian tribes in the
31 State;

32 D. Within facilities owned or leased by the racing licensee and approved by the
33 commission and the municipality in which the facility is located; or

34 E. At the off-track betting licensee's off-track betting facility.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
37 pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 440 and amends the provision of law that allows a
38 person to sell pari-mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools for simulcast races by
39 expanding the locations that a person is authorized to sell from to include within facilities
40 owned or controlled by federally recognized Indian tribes in the State or within facilities

1 owned or leased by the racing licensee and approved by the State Harness Racing
2 Commission and the municipality in which the facility is located.

3 The bill also repeals the provisions related to the State Harness Racing Commission
4 authorizing a person licensed to conduct harness horse racing with pari-mutuel betting to
5 sell pari-mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools for simulcast races at a facility if it
6 is located within the same county as the commercial track where the race or races are
7 conducted, it is not located within the same municipality as an off-track betting facility and
8 the municipal officers of the municipality in which the facility is located approve the sale
9 of pari-mutuel pools or common pari-mutuel pools at the facility.

10 The committee has not taken a position on the substance of this bill. By reporting this
11 bill out, the committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees or
12 disagrees with any aspect of this bill. The committee is reporting the bill out for the sole
13 purpose of having a bill printed that can be referred to the committee for an appropriate
14 public hearing and subsequent processing in the normal course. The committee is taking
15 this action to ensure clarity and transparency in the legislative review of the proposals
16 contained in the bill.