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Date: (Filing No. S-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 358, L.D. 793, “An Act to Modernize Gaming Revenue Allocations and Increase Efforts to Prevent Gambling Addiction”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Review and Update the Laws Governing Harness Racing'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the effective date for acts and resolves of the Legislature is likely to be in early October; and

Whereas, the report required by this legislation must be submitted by December 3, 2025; and

Whereas, the working group established by this legislation needs sufficient time in which to complete its work; and

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

Sec. 1. Working group established. Resolved: That the Working Group to Review and Update the Laws Governing Harness Racing, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," is established.

Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the working group consists of 12 members appointed as follows:

1 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including a
2 member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature,
3 one of whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs;

4 2. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
5 House, including at least one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number
6 of seats in the Legislature, one of whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on
7 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;

8 3. One member of the State Harness Racing Commission, appointed by the President
9 of the Senate;

10 4. One member representing a statewide association of horse owners, trainers and
11 drivers, appointed by the President of the Senate;

12 5. One member representing a statewide organization of Standardbred breeders,
13 appointed by the President of the Senate;

14 6. One member representing licensed commercial tracks, appointed by the President
15 of the Senate;

16 7. One member representing licensed off-track betting facilities, appointed by the
17 Speaker of the House;

18 8. One member representing agricultural fairs that conduct pari-mutuel wagering,
19 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20 9. One member who is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, appointed by the
21 Speaker of the House; and

22 10. One member of the public with experience in hospitality, tourism or advertising,
23 appointed by the Speaker of the House.

24 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Senate
25 member who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs is the
26 Senate chair and the House of Representatives member who serves on the Joint Standing
27 Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is the House chair of the working
28 group.

29 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of working group. Resolved:** That all
30 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
31 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
32 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
33 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the working group. If 30 days or more
34 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
35 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for
36 the working group to meet and conduct its business.

37 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the working group shall review the Maine Revised
38 Statutes, Title 8, chapter 11 and prepare a partial or complete revision of that chapter and
39 any other sections of law reasonably related to harness racing in the State as may be
40 necessary to modernize and sustain the sport of harness racing and to provide support for
41 gambling addiction. The working group shall evaluate, but is not limited to evaluating, the
42 following:

