

Dustin White
State of Maine Legislature

"Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is State Representative Dustin Michael White and I represent 10 towns in central Aroostook County where I reside in Mars Hill. I appear before you today to testify in support of LD 623: An Act to Amend the Advanced Deposit Wagering Law.

In the interest of full disclosure, I offer my testimony as both a former member of the VLA committee, as well as an owner in the harness racing community that operates in several different states including Maine, Massachusetts, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey. In fact, I recently just returned from our operation in Delaware. Operating a business in multiple states is challenging enough, but with current ADW laws it makes my job even more challenging to watch and keep track of my horses when they race and I'm unable to be there to see.

Prior to the passage of the Maine law limiting ADW operators in the state to a single vendor, I had an active TwinSpire account and would often watch the live feed of my horses around the country... occasionally I might even place a wager if I thought my horse was being underestimated.

As you will likely hear from others today, in the absence of state legislation, federal law governs advanced deposit wagering via the Interstate Horse Racing Act. Since this bill became law and rule making was completed, we've been left with a single platform in the state.

While I was not involved in the rule making process, I can tell you that the mobile application, Hollywood Races, is basically non-functional for me. I've personally been trying to register as a user for a year now and have not been able to do so. I've included below a screen shot of the error message that I've received dozens of times over the last year. The application was clearly rushed, and very little effort or pride was put into the platform due to the lack of competition.

On behalf of myself as well as my team, I ask that you look at opening up the market for Advanced Deposit Wagering for the benefit of the entire industry, and for Maine's agricultural interests in general. Thank you for hearing my testimony today, I'd be happy to take any questions from the committee.