

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1160
Ways and Means

(Delegate Luedtke)

Finance

State Racing Commission - Employees of Licensees - Repeal of Citizenship Requirement

This bill repeals the requirement that at least 85% of a horse racing licensee's employees be U.S. citizens who have maintained a permanent place of residence in the State for at least two years immediately before being employed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect the operations or finances of the Maryland Racing Commission.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: At least 85% of the individuals employed each day by a racetrack (licensee) must be citizens of the United States who have maintained a permanent place of residence in the State for at least the two years immediately before being employed. Prior to the start of employment, each individual must submit to the licensee an affidavit that sets forth these qualifications. The licensee may rely on the affidavit as valid.

Certain employees, such as clockers, heads of departments, and governing and managing officials of a track, may be nonresidents of the State and are excluded from the residency computation. In addition, the residency and citizenship requirements do not apply to

employees of trainers, owners, or concessionaires, or other employers who are not licensees.

Background: Maryland has two mile-thoroughbred racetracks: Laurel Park in Anne Arundel County and Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore City. There are also two harness (standardbred) racetracks in the State: Rosecroft Raceway in Prince George's County and Ocean Downs in Worcester County. In addition, Maryland has one steeplechase race course at Fair Hill in Cecil County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 596 of 2010, received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2015
mar/jrb

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