

# SENATE BILL 919

C6, C7

1lr3026  
CF HB 1259

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By: **Senator Gallion**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2021

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 28, 2021

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Horse Racing – Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing certain requirements relating to racing at the Fair Hill  
4 Natural Resources Management Area; altering the amount of money that is to be  
5 credited to the Fair Hill Improvement Fund; requiring the Governor to include  
6 certain appropriations in the annual budget bill for certain fiscal years; requiring  
7 the money appropriated to the Fund to be spent in a certain manner; and generally  
8 relating to racing at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Business Regulation  
11 Section 11–702 and 11–704  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Natural Resources  
16 Section 5–908  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Business Regulation**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 11-702.

2 (a) (1) The Commission shall issue a license to the Cecil County Breeders'  
3 Fair, Inc., or its successor to hold racing on [at least 2 but] not more than 8 one-day race  
4 meetings a year for steeplechase, hurdle, or flat racing at the Fair Hill Natural Resources  
5 Management Area.

6 (2) The racing shall be held on dates that the licensee chooses and the  
7 Commission approves.

8 (b) In conjunction with this racing, an agricultural fair with livestock entered for  
9 exhibition [shall] **MAY** be held under the auspices of the State Fair Board on at least 1  
10 racing day.

11 (c) [For each racing day, the licensee shall offer at least 1 steeplechase or hurdle  
12 race for each flat race, but an additional flat race may be substituted for a steeplechase race  
13 or hurdle race that is not filled.

14 (d)] An officer of the licensee may not receive a salary or dividends from racing  
15 allowed under this subtitle.

16 11-704.

17 (a) (1) The licensee shall deduct from the handle:

18 (i) all the breakage; and

19 (ii) **AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 25%**.

20 (2) [From the 25% that] **EXCLUDING THE BREAKAGE, OF THE AMOUNT**  
21 **THE** licensee deducts from the handle, ~~9%~~ **36% OF THAT AMOUNT** [of the handle] shall be  
22 paid to the Commission, which shall send it to the Comptroller to be credited to the Fair  
23 Hill Improvement Fund established in § 5-908 of the Natural Resources Article.

24 (b) Money that remains after deductions are made under subsection (a) of this  
25 section shall be returned as winnings to successful bettors.

## 26 Article – Natural Resources

27 5-908.

28 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Fair Hill Improvement Fund.

1 (b) There is a Fair Hill Improvement Fund in the Department, to be used for the  
2 operation, maintenance, development, and improvement of the Fair Hill facilities at Fair  
3 Hill, Maryland.

4 (c) Any money obtained by the Department from Fair Hill shall be credited to the  
5 Fund.

6 (d) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of  
7 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

8 (2) Any investment earnings of the Fund may not be transferred or revert  
9 to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the Fund.

10 (3) Money in the Fund may be used for administrative costs calculated in  
11 accordance with § 1-103(b)(2) of this article.

12 (E) ~~FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2023 THROUGH 2027, THE~~ THE GOVERNOR  
13 SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION TO THE FUND OF  
14 ~~\$1,300,000~~ OF:

15 (1) \$1,800,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023; AND

16 (2) \$1,300,000 FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2027.

17 (F) (1) THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND UNDER SUBSECTION  
18 (E)(1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY AS FOLLOWS:

19 (I) \$1,300,000 FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF  
20 THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN THE SPECIAL EVENT AREA OF THE FAIR  
21 HILL NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA; AND

22 (II) \$500,000 TO SUPPORT THE FIVE-STAR EQUESTRIAN EVENT  
23 AT FAIR HILL, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF A GRANT TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE  
24 EVENT TO COVER STARTUP COSTS, PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES, EVENT COSTS, PRIOR  
25 YEAR EVENT EXPENSES, AND OTHER EXPENSES.

26 (2) THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND UNDER SUBSECTION  
27 ~~(E)~~ (E)(2) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE OPERATION AND  
28 MAINTENANCE OF THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN THE SPECIAL EVENT  
29 AREA OF THE FAIR HILL NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
31 1, 2021.