

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 596 (Delegate Ross)
Ways and Means

**Horse Racing - Citizenship and Residency Requirement for Employees of Licensee
- Repeal**

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

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal reduction in general fund revenues from the State income tax depending on the number of non-State residents working at race tracks. The bill will 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 race track (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 who will employ the individual 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 requirements. In addition, the residency requirements do not apply to employees of trainers, owners, or concessionaires, or other employers who are not licensees.

Background: Maryland has two mile-thoroughbred race tracks: Laurel Park in Anne Arundel County and Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore City. There are also two harness (standardbred) race tracks 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: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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