

**R019-0304**

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AIDING THE DECLINING HORSE  
INDUSTRY IN MARYLAND BY ENACTING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD  
AUTHORIZE SLOTS AT MARYLAND HORSE RACING TRACKS**

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40     **WHEREAS:**     Rosecroft Raceway in Fort Washington, MD currently races 10 races a day  
50                     3 days a week with purses averaging from \$2000-\$5000; and,

60     **WHEREAS:**     Ocean Downs in Berlin, MD currently races 10 races a night, 5 days a week  
70                     for a two-month period with purses averaging from \$2000-\$3000 and no  
80                     higher than \$4500; and,

90     **WHEREAS:**     Harrington Raceway in Harrington, DE currently races 15 races a night, 5  
100                    days a week for a three-month period with purses averaging from \$5000-  
110                    \$12,000 with no purse being less than \$3700; and,

120    **WHEREAS:**     Dover Downs in Dover, DE currently races 15 races a night, 5 days a week  
130                    for a seven-month period with purses ranging from \$5000-\$25,000 with  
140                    some as high as \$40,000; and,

150    **WHEREAS:**     Before slots were introduced in Delaware, both Dover and Harrington  
160                    raced only 10 races a night four days a week in a much shortened season;  
170                    and,

180    **WHEREAS:**     Before slots were introduced in Delaware, purses at Dover Downs ranged  
190                    from \$500-\$1500 and purses at Harrington Raceway ranged from \$400-  
200                    \$1000; and,

210    **WHEREAS:**     Brandywine Raceway in Wilmington, DE closed in 1989 primarily, because  
220                    its purses could not compete with Rosecroft Raceway in Maryland and The  
230                    Meadowlands in New Jersey; and,

240    **WHEREAS:**     All races in \$10,000 claiming class and below with some other misc.  
250                    classes comprising 40% of races at Dover or Harrington are reserved solely  
260                    for horses that are stabled in Delaware or were bred in Delaware; and,

270    **WHEREAS:**     With added revenues from slots, Harrington recently built a huge training  
280                    center for horses complete with 270 stalls, an indoor training pool, 1/2  
290                    mile and 7/8 mile training tracks all professionally maintained; and,

300    **WHEREAS:**     With added revenues from slots, Harrington recently completed three large  
310                    arena-type barns for community to use for livestock shows, rodeos,  
320                    concerts ,etc; and,

330    **WHEREAS:**     With added revenues from slots, Dover Downs recently built a large  
340                    conference-type hotel that host many non-profit organizations, area  
350                    businesses as well as numerous concerts and shows; and

360    **WHEREAS:**     With added revenues from slots, Delaware Park in Wilmington, DE built  
370                    recently a world-class 18-hole golf course; and,

380    **WHEREAS:**     In Cecil County alone horses use 6000 pounds of hay and straw a day

390    **WHEREAS:**     The horse racing industry currently employs about 21,000 people in the  
400                    state of Maryland; and,

410     **WHEREAS:**     All of Maryland's horse tracks with the exception of Ocean Downs are  
420                             located in the Baltimore/Washington Metropolitan area; and

430     **WHEREAS:**     The state of Maryland already spends tens of millions to "boost" purses  
440                             at its horse tracks.

450     **THEREFOR LET IT BE RESOLVED:**     That the Maryland Student Legislature supports  
460                             the legalization of video slot terminals at Maryland horse racing tracks  
470                             in order to boost the declining horse industry in the state; and

480     **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**     That the Maryland Student Legislature supports that  
490                             \$20 million of slots revenue be given to the Maryland Horse Breeding  
500                             Assoc; and

510     **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**     That the Maryland Student Legislature supports that  
520                             \$70 million of slots revenue is used to boost purses in all of Maryland's  
530                             horse racing tracks; and

540     **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**     That the Maryland Student Legislature supports that  
550                             track owners required to keep a set number of races a year and they would  
560                             keep a certain percentage of "cheaper" claim races as to encourage  
570                             newcomers to start out in the field of horse racing

580     **MANDATES:**     Governor Robert L. Ehrlich  
590                             Speaker of the House of Delegates Michael Busch  
600                             President of the Senate Mike Miller  
610                             Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Del. Sheila Hixson

**Sponsor:**

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