

STATE OF NEW YORK

7891

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 28, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- read once and referred to the Committee on Racing and Wagering

AN ACT to amend the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law, in relation to procedures for cancelling race days at a pari-mutuel harness track

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 5-a of section 307 of the racing, pari-mutuel
2 wagering and breeding law, as amended by chapter 243 of the laws of
3 2020, is amended to read as follows:

4 5-a. The commission shall not issue a license pursuant to this section
5 to any harness racing association or corporation that does not apply to
6 conduct at its facilities a minimum number of pari-mutuel programs and
7 pari-mutuel races at its facilities equal to at least seventy-five
8 percent of the programs and races so conducted during nineteen hundred
9 eighty-five or during nineteen hundred eighty-six, or one hundred
10 percent of the programs and races so conducted during two thousand,
11 whichever is greater; provided, however, that for a harness racing asso-
12 ciation or corporation located in Westchester and Erie counties, such
13 minimum number of pari-mutuel programs and pari-mutuel races at its
14 facilities shall equal at least one hundred percent of the programs and
15 races conducted during two thousand. If the track did not conduct races
16 during two thousand, such minimum number of pari-mutuel programs and
17 pari-mutuel races at its facilities shall equal at least ninety percent
18 of the programs and races conducted during two thousand at Buffalo race-
19 way, in the town of Hamburg and county of Erie, unless cancellation of a
20 race day because of an act of God, that the commission approves or
21 because of weather conditions that are unsafe or hazardous that the
22 commission approves shall not be construed as a failure to conduct a
23 race day; provided, however, that where cancellation is sought for a
24 race date where the scheduled post-time is more than twenty-four hours

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 after the cessation of accumulating snow or ice as reported by the
2 National Weather Service, such race date shall only be excused upon
3 unanimous consent of the horsemen's association representative recog-
4 nized pursuant to section three hundred eighteen of this chapter, the
5 track operator and a representative of the commission. All other race
6 day cancellations from the annual allotment granted shall only be
7 excused by the commission if made upon the unanimous consent of the
8 horsemen's association representative, the track operator and a repre-
9 sentative of the commission. Any unexcused dates occurring prior to
10 November first of any calendar year shall be rescheduled during the
11 calendar year of occurrence and any unexcused dates occurring after such
12 date shall be added onto the next calendar year's plan of operation and
13 submitted to the commission for approval. Provided further, the commis-
14 sion shall not grant a license to such association or corporation upon
15 application unless such programs and races are conducted during the same
16 calendar year period as were conducted during the applicable period
17 above used to measure the minimum number of pari-mutuel programs and
18 pari-mutuel races, as approved by the commission. Nothing in the forego-
19 ing paragraph shall affect any agreement in effect on or before the
20 effective date of this paragraph. The commission may grant a license to
21 such association or corporation to conduct fewer such programs and races
22 for good cause shown due to factors beyond the control of such associ-
23 ation or corporation, and upon consent of the representative horsemen's
24 association, as determined pursuant to section three hundred eighteen of
25 this article.

26 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.