

3719

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

March 2, 2011

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Introduced by Sen. ADAMS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering

AN ACT to amend the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law, in relation to the franchise oversight board

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Subdivisions 3 and 8 of section 212 of the racing, pari-mu-  
2     tuel wagering and breeding law, subdivision 3 as amended and subdivision  
3     8 as added by chapter 18 of the laws of 2008, and subparagraphs (viii)  
4     and (xi) of paragraph a of subdivision 8 as amended by chapter 140 of  
5     the laws of 2008, are amended to read as follows:  
6     3. Such members, except as otherwise provided by law, may engage in  
7     private or public employment, or in a profession or business. The board,  
8     its members, officers and employees shall be subject to the provisions  
9     of sections seventy-three and seventy-four of the public officers law.  
10    No former trustee or officer of a non-profit racing association known as  
11    The New York Racing Association, Inc. or its predecessor, no current  
12    director or officer of a franchised corporation, NO FORMER OR CURRENT  
13    DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION or  
14    any individual registered with the New York commission on public integ-  
15    rity shall be appointed as members to the board nor shall any member of  
16    the board have any direct or indirect interest in any racehorse,  
17    thoroughbred racing, OFF-TRACK BETTING or pari-mutuel wagering business,  
18    video lottery terminal facility or any development at any racing facili-  
19    ty.  
20    8. a. The duties and responsibilities of the franchise oversight board  
21    shall include, but not be limited to, the following:  
22    (i) represent the interests of the state in all real estate develop-  
23    ment proposed for Aqueduct racetrack or real estate development at  
24    Belmont Park racetrack. Any such real estate development shall only be

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

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1 undertaken pursuant to a competitive process approved by the board,  
2 after consultation with the applicable local advisory boards and consid-  
3 eration of local zoning and planning regulation, and in a manner that  
4 will not adversely impact any historic structure that is included in or  
5 eligible for inclusion in the National or the State Register of Historic  
6 Places, be consistent with any plan approved for such community, and  
7 shall be subject to unanimous approval of the franchise oversight board  
8 and all statutory and regulatory requirements; provided, however, that,  
9 subject to approval of the franchise oversight board and subject to all  
10 statutory and regulatory requirements, the franchised corporation shall  
11 have full powers and rights to develop, redevelop, refurbish, renovate  
12 or make such other improvements, capital expenditures or otherwise, to  
13 the racetracks and the fixtures and improvements thereon consistent with  
14 projects specifically identified in the franchised corporation's  
15 approved track facility improvement plan.

16 The franchise oversight board shall be guided by the goals of ensuring  
17 the continuation of high quality thoroughbred racing at the thoroughbred  
18 racing facilities located within the state, raising revenue for or in  
19 aid or support of education in this state from video lottery gaming at  
20 facilities of the state racing franchise, and maximizing revenue for  
21 governments from pari-mutuel wagering on racing at facilities of the  
22 state racing franchise.

23 (ii) monitor and enforce compliance with definitive documents that  
24 comprise the franchise agreement between the franchised corporation and  
25 the state of New York governing the franchised corporation's operation  
26 of thoroughbred racing and pari-mutuel wagering at the racetracks. The  
27 franchise agreement shall contain objective performance standards that  
28 shall allow contract review in a manner consistent with this chapter.  
29 The franchise oversight board shall notify the franchised corporation  
30 authorized by this chapter in writing of any material breach of the  
31 performance standards or repeated non-material breaches which the fran-  
32 chise oversight board may determine collectively constitute a material  
33 breach of the performance standards. Prior to taking any action against  
34 such franchised corporation, the franchise oversight board shall provide  
35 the franchised corporation with the reasonable opportunity to cure any  
36 material breach of the performance standards or repeated non-material  
37 breaches which the franchise oversight board may determine collectively  
38 constitute a material breach of the performance standards. Upon a writ-  
39 ten finding of a material breach of the performance standards or  
40 repeated non-material breaches which the franchise oversight board may  
41 determine collectively constitute a material breach of the performance  
42 standards, the franchise oversight board may recommend that the fran-  
43 chise agreement be terminated. The franchise oversight board shall refer  
44 such recommendation to the racing and wagering board for a hearing  
45 conducted pursuant to section two hundred forty-five of this article for  
46 a determination of whether to terminate the franchise agreement with the  
47 franchised corporation;

48 (iii) oversee, monitor and review all significant transactions and  
49 operations of the franchised corporation AND THE NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK  
50 BETTING CORPORATION authorized by this chapter; provided, however, that  
51 nothing in this section shall be deemed to reduce, diminish or impede  
52 the authority of the state racing and wagering board to, pursuant to  
53 article one of this chapter, determine and enforce compliance by the  
54 franchised corporation OR THE NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPO-  
55 RATION with terms of racing laws and regulations. Such oversight shall  
56 include, but not be limited to:

1 (A) review and make recommendations concerning the annual operating  
2 budgets of such franchised corporation AND THE NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK  
3 BETTING CORPORATION;

4 (B) review and make recommendations concerning operating revenues and  
5 the establishment of a financial plan;

6 (C) review and make recommendations concerning accounting, internal  
7 control systems and security procedures;

8 (D) review such franchised corporation's AND THE NEW YORK CITY  
9 OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION'S revenue and expenditure [polices] POLI-  
10 CIES which shall include collective bargaining agreements management and  
11 employee compensation plans, vendor contracts and capital improvement  
12 plans;

13 (E) review such franchise corporation's AND THE NEW YORK CITY  
14 OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION'S compliance with the laws, rules and  
15 regulations applicable to [its] THEIR activities;

16 (F) make recommendations for establishing model governance principles  
17 to improve accountability and transparency; and

18 (G) receive, review, approve or disapprove capital expense plans  
19 submitted annually by the franchised corporation AND THE NEW YORK CITY  
20 OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION.

21 (iv) evaluate, review and approve the racing franchisee's AND THE NEW  
22 YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION'S selection of a vendor or  
23 vendors to contract with the franchised corporation AND THE NEW YORK  
24 CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION for provision of totalizator  
25 services, and manage, subject to the franchised corporation's unilateral  
26 right to opt out, directly or indirectly, integration of any offered  
27 internet wagering platform. The franchise oversight board shall consider  
28 in its evaluation of any such proposed vendor their ability to reduce  
29 the totalizator expenses and general development and production costs of  
30 any internet wagering platform of an authorized off-track betting corpo-  
31 ration and the state racing franchise holder.

32 (v) facilitate discussions and voluntary agreements between the fran-  
33 chised corporation and off-track betting corporations to streamline  
34 operations, decrease operating costs and maximize opportunities pertain-  
35 ing to costs and revenues, and encourage an exchange of views and expe-  
36 riences from the franchised corporation and the off-track betting corpo-  
37 rations to improve the racing product in New York and to realize  
38 efficiencies, EXCEPT THE NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION  
39 SHALL TRANSFER ALL WAGERING ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT  
40 BALANCES HELD FOR TELEPHONE AND INTERNET WAGERING TO THE FRANCHISE OVER-  
41 SIGHT BOARD. NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION SHALL PROVIDE A  
42 REPORT FROM ITS TOTALIZATOR PROVIDER OF ALL WAGERING ACCOUNTS INCLUDING  
43 INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMER ACCOUNT BALANCES. THE FRANCHISE OVERSIGHT BOARD  
44 SHALL FORTHWITH ENTER INTO A MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF  
45 NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION WITH A THIRD PARTY VENDOR  
46 SELECTED BY THE FRANCHISE OVERSIGHT BOARD SUBJECT TO STATE PROCUREMENT  
47 LAW AND REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ACCOUNT DEPOSIT WAGERING  
48 FOR TELEPHONE AND INTERNET WAGERING. ANY SUCH MANAGEMENT FEE DERIVED  
49 FROM SAID AGREEMENT SHALL BE DEDICATED TO OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES AND  
50 CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS WITH UNIONIZED EMPLOYEES OF NEW YORK CITY  
51 OFF-TRACK BETTING TO THE EXTENT SUCH EXIST;

52 (vi) review and approve all purchasing policies pursuant to paragraph  
53 (a) of subdivision six of section two hundred eight of this article AND  
54 USED BY NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION;

55 (vii) NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION AND THE FRANCHISED  
56 CORPORATION SHALL JOINTLY NEGOTIATE ALL SIMULCASTING CONTRACTS WITH OUT

1 OF STATE ENTITIES AND THE FRANCHISE OVERSIGHT BOARD SHALL review and  
2 provide any recommendations on all simulcasting contracts (buy and sell)  
3 that are also subject to prior approval of the racing and wagering  
4 board;

5 (viii) act on behalf of the People of the State of New York to enter  
6 into any real property transactions in furtherance of the purposes and  
7 intent of this statute, including, without limitation, one or more  
8 ground leases, for one dollar in consideration annually, for each of  
9 Aqueduct racetrack, Belmont Park and Saratoga racecourse to the fran-  
10 chised corporation, for a term that will extend until the racing fran-  
11 chise expires, is revoked, terminated or ends by any other means  
12 provided by law. Such leases shall be executed contemporaneously with  
13 the conveyance of the racetracks by the franchised corporation's prede-  
14 cessor to the state;

15 (ix) enter into on behalf of the state as licensor, a long term  
16 license agreement with the franchised corporation for the use of the  
17 simulcast signal and associated intellectual property rights, for  
18 consideration of one dollar annually and for a term that will extend  
19 until the racing franchise expires, is revoked, terminated or ends by  
20 any other means provided by law. Such license agreement shall be  
21 executed contemporaneously with the conveyance of the franchised corpo-  
22 ration's assets associated with the franchise agreement.

23 (x) conduct running races or steeplechases at racing facilities and  
24 conduct pari-mutuel betting on the outcome of the same when necessary to  
25 assure the continuation of the racing and pari-mutuel betting activities  
26 at such racing facilities (A) in the event that the racing and/or pari-  
27 mutuel betting franchises of the franchised corporation authorized by  
28 this chapter then holding such franchises have either been terminated in  
29 the manner provided by law or have been relinquished by such corpo-  
30 ration, or such corporation declines to continue conducting race meet-  
31 ings and pari-mutuel betting on the outcome of the same as required by  
32 such franchises unless such declination is the result of strikes, acts  
33 of God, or other unavoidable causes not under the control of such corpo-  
34 ration, or the corporate existence of such corporation has been  
35 dissolved in the manner provided by law prior to the end of the term of  
36 any such franchise and (B) until such time as a new franchise is  
37 granted, AND TO CONDUCT ALL OPERATIONS AND PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING AS  
38 AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO THIS CHAPTER FOR NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING  
39 CORPORATION IN THE EVENT THAT THE SYSTEM OF OFF-TRACK PARI-MUTUEL  
40 BETTING IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK OPERATED BY NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK  
41 BETTING CORPORATION HAS EITHER BEEN TERMINATED OR RELINQUISHED BY SUCH  
42 CORPORATION, OR SUCH CORPORATION DECLINES TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNLESS  
43 SUCH DECLINATION IS THE RESULT OF STRIKES, ACTS OF GOD OR OTHER UNAVOID-  
44 ABLE CAUSES NOT UNDER CONTROL OF SUCH CORPORATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS  
45 OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR IN STATUTE;

46 (xi) on behalf of the People of the State of New York, and, acting in  
47 such capacity as lessor of the racing facilities and real estate, be  
48 responsible for payment of all property taxes related to such racing  
49 facilities and real estate;

50 (xii) report annually to the governor and the legislature, beginning  
51 no later than December thirty-first, two thousand eight, stating its  
52 findings and recommendations to implement policy and legislative changes  
53 necessary to encourage the continuation of high quality thoroughbred  
54 racing in New York state and to protect the legitimate interests of the  
55 state and the thoroughbred racing industry;

(xiii) require the franchised corporation AND THE NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION to make all records and documents pertaining to [its] THEIR financial practices, and other documents and records necessary to carry out [its] THEIR duties, available to the franchise oversight board within thirty days of a written request;

(xiv) examine or cause to be examined by a third party, the books, papers, records and accounts of the franchised corporation AND THE NEW YORK CITY OFF-TRACK BETTING CORPORATION;

(xv) sue and be sued;

(xvi) make and execute contracts and all other instruments necessary or convenient for the exercise of [its] THEIR powers and functions under this article;

(xvii) request and accept the assistance of any state agency, including but not limited to, the racing and wagering board, the division of the lottery office of parks, recreation and historic preservation, the department of environmental conservation, THE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES and the department of taxation and finance, in obtaining information related to the franchised corporation's compliance with the terms of the franchise agreement; and

(xviii) do all things necessary, convenient or desirable to carry out its purposes and for the exercise of the powers granted in this article.

b. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the franchised corporation shall be entitled to make capital expenditures, except those capital expenditures for the Saratoga Racecourse that may, on the advice of the New York state historic preservation office, adversely impact any historic structure that is included in or is eligible for inclusion in the national or state register of historic places, to the physical plant of the racetracks, grandstand, backstretch, parking and public areas set forth in the New York Racing Association's capital expenditure plan ("capital plan") filed with the racing and wagering board in two thousand seven. Any material modification to the capital plan as determined by the franchise oversight board and each future capital investment plan for the tracks, grandstand, backstretch, parking and public areas of the racetracks operated by the franchised corporation involving the expenditure of more than five million dollars in the aggregate shall require the prior approval of the franchise oversight board. Within five years from the date of commencement of the video lottery terminal operations at Aqueduct, and every five years thereafter, the franchised corporation shall submit to the oversight board a capital plan for the five year period commencing on January first of the following year. Such plans shall contain both the intended object of expenditure and the proposed sources of financing. The franchised corporation shall report to the franchise oversight board within ninety days following the end of each fiscal year as to the amount spent pursuant to the capital plan.

S 2. This act shall take effect upon the confirmation of the New York Racing Association plan of reorganization pursuant to section 16 of chapter 18 of the laws of 2008, as amended; provided further, that the amendments to section 212 of the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law made by section one of this act shall be deemed repealed as provided by chapter 354 of the laws of 2005, as amended.