

STATE OF NEW YORK

1974

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 18, 2019

Introduced by Sen. ADDABBO -- 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 establishing the commission on retired racehorses

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

1 Section 1. The racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law is
2 amended by adding a new article 7-A to read as follows:

ARTICLE 7-A

COMMISSION ON RETIRED RACEHORSES

Section 710. Commission on retired racehorses.

711. Powers and duties of commission.

712. Reports on retired racehorses.

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5 § 710. Commission on retired racehorses. 1. There is hereby estab-
6 lished a commission on retired racehorses. Such commission on retired
7 racehorses shall consist of seven members, three of whom shall be
8 appointed by the governor, two of whom shall be appointed by the tempo-
9 rary president of the senate and two of whom shall be appointed by the
10 speaker of the assembly. Of the three members appointed by the governor,
11 two shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the gaming commission.
12 One of the appointed members of the commission on retired racehorses
13 shall be representative of owners and breeders of standardbred horses
14 and one shall be representative of owners and breeders of thoroughbred
15 horses. Three of the appointed members of the commission on retired
16 racehorses shall be representative of: (a) persons with expertise in
17 training horses for uses other than racing, such as riding schools,
18 steeplechase competitions, show horse competitions (e.g., dressage,
19 hunter/jumper, English, Western, and costume competitions), and other
20 recreational uses, (b) persons with experience in the potential farm or
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EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 other rural economic business applications for horses, and (c) persons
2 familiar with the use of horses for recreational or therapeutic uses.

3 2. The members of the commission on retired racehorses shall serve for
4 terms of two years each.

5 3. Every member of the commission on retired racehorses shall serve at
6 the pleasure of the official who appointed him or her. Vacancies in the
7 membership of such commission shall be filled in the manner provided for
8 original appointments.

9 4. The members of the commission on retired racehorses shall receive
10 no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual
11 and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties
12 pursuant to this section.

13 § 711. Powers and duties of commission. 1. The commission on retired
14 racehorses, in cooperation with the gaming commission, shall be respon-
15 sible for the oversight of retired racehorses, including the tracking of
16 such racehorses. For the purposes of this article, a retired racehorse
17 shall mean (a) a New York-bred thoroughbred as defined by subdivision
18 three of section two hundred fifty-one of this chapter which is no long-
19 er engaged in horseracing or (b) a standardbred which meets or ever met
20 the standards set forth in subdivision one of section three hundred
21 thirty-four of this chapter and which is no longer engaged in horse
22 racing.

23 2. The commission on retired racehorses, in cooperation with the
24 gaming commission, shall be responsible for the creation of a registry
25 which would track retired racehorses. Such registry shall include infor-
26 mation provided by each owner and subsequent owner of a retired
27 racehorse, as provided in section seven hundred twelve of this article.
28 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commission on retired
29 racehorses shall maintain and update this registry. The commission on
30 retired racehorses may access any relevant information in the registries
31 designated and administered by the New York state thoroughbred breeding
32 and development fund and the agriculture and New York state horse breed-
33 ing development fund.

34 3. The commission on retired racehorses shall work with the gaming
35 commission to identify methods by which the information in the retired
36 racehorse registry may be utilized to address the well-being and/or
37 employment of retired racehorses, including but not limited to strate-
38 gies to address the issue of abandoned racehorses and to prevent the
39 slaughter of retired racehorses. The commission on retired racehorses
40 shall also furnish related future recommendations regarding the funding,
41 care and treatment of retired racehorses. Such recommendations and rele-
42 vant data that support such recommendations shall be submitted to the
43 gaming commission, the governor, the temporary president of the senate,
44 the chair of the senate racing, gaming and wagering committee, the
45 speaker of the assembly and the chair of the assembly racing and wager-
46 ing committee no less often than biannually.

47 4. The commission on retired racehorses shall work with the gaming
48 commission to publish on the gaming commission website at least quarter-
49 ly, in such forms as the gaming commission may deem proper, a report of
50 aggregate data from the retired racehorse registry including the number
51 of retired racehorses and any other information which the gaming commis-
52 sion may deem proper. Such report shall also include information on how
53 to report violations as provided in subdivision three of section seven
54 hundred twelve of this article to the commission on retired racehorses.

55 5. The commission on retired racehorses shall share with the gaming
56 commission any suspected violations as provided in subdivision three of

1 section seven hundred twelve of this article at a time and in a manner
2 to be determined and prescribed by the gaming commission for the purpose
3 of assessing civil penalties.

4 § 712. Reports on retired racehorses. 1. Within seventy-two hours
5 after any change in ownership regarding a retired racehorse, the new
6 owner or owners of the horse shall report to the commission on retired
7 racehorses that such ownership has changed and shall file a statement
8 listing the name or names of the previous owner or owners and the
9 license number of any license issued by the gaming commission to the
10 previous owner or owners, the name or names, telephone number or tele-
11 phone numbers and address or addresses of the new owner or owners, the
12 license number of any license issued by the gaming commission to the new
13 owner or owners, the tattoo number of such horse and any other informa-
14 tion which the commission on retired racehorses may require.

15 2. Within seventy-two hours after the death of a retired racehorse,
16 the owner or owners of the horse shall report such death to the commis-
17 sion on retired racehorses and shall file a statement including a death
18 certificate by a licensed veterinarian and any other information which
19 the commission on retired racehorses may require.

20 3. Any sole or joint owner of a retired racehorse who is a resident of
21 the state and who fails to file a statement required to be filed by this
22 section shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred
23 dollars for each violation.

24 § 2. Severability. If any clause, sentence, subdivision, paragraph,
25 section or part of this act be adjudged by any court of competent juris-
26 isdiction to be invalid, such judgement shall not affect, impair or inval-
27 idate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to
28 the clause, sentence, subdivision, paragraph, section or part thereof
29 directly involved in the controversy in which such judgement shall have
30 been rendered.

31 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
32 it shall have become a law.