

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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1957--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 17, 2023

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Introduced by Sens. ADDABBO, COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law, in relation to handicapping tournaments

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

1 Section 1. Section 906 of the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breed-  
2 ing law, as added by chapter 2 of the laws of 1995, and as renumbered  
3 and subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 18 of the laws of 2008, and  
4 paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 243 of the laws of  
5 2020, is amended to read as follows:

6 § 906. Handicapping tournaments. 1. Notwithstanding any other  
7 provision of law, a thoroughbred racing corporation, including a fran-  
8 chise corporation, a harness racing corporation or association, a  
9 regional off-track betting corporation or a combination thereof, or a  
10 party that contracts with any of the foregoing, may operate a handicap-  
11 ping tournament at which the participants may be charged an entry fee if  
12 the tournament is conducted in accordance with the provisions of this  
13 section.

14 2. (a) The operator of a handicapping tournament shall distribute no  
15 less than eighty percent of all of the entry fees as prizes to the  
16 winners of the tournament. Nothing herein shall preclude an operator  
17 from providing additional prizes or promotions.

18 (b) The commission shall approve the rules and the payment of prizes  
19 of a handicapping tournament. No operator of a handicapping tournament  
20 may accept an entry fee for a tournament until the commission has  
21 approved the rules and the payment of prizes of a handicapping tourna-  
22 ment.

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

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1 (c) The horse races which are the subject of the tournament must be  
2 races on which the operator of the tournament is authorized to conduct  
3 wagering. [~~At least fifty percent of the races which are the subject of~~  
4 ~~the tournament must be races run in New York state.~~]

5 3. A handicapping tournament operated in accordance with the  
6 provisions of this section shall be considered a contest of skill and  
7 shall not be considered gambling.

8 4. Five percent of the portion of the gross revenue collected by an  
9 operator on handicapping tournament entry fees from New York partic-  
10 ipants that is not distributed as prizes to the winners of a tournament  
11 pursuant to subdivision two of this section shall be distributed quar-  
12 terly by such operator to the horsemen's organization for the adminis-  
13 trative purposes of said organization and for such welfare and medical  
14 plans for regularly employed backstretch employees pursuant to section  
15 three hundred eighteen of this chapter.

16 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.