



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 622

H.P. 441

House of Representatives, February 21, 2013

**An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning Reciprocal Disciplinary
Actions in Harness Racing and Pulling Events**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CRAY of Palmyra.
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, DILL of Old Town, GIFFORD of Lincoln, HARVELL of
Farmington, MAREAN of Hollis, TIMBERLAKE of Turner, Senator: SHERMAN of
Aroostook.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the harness racing season begins in late March and the fair season takes
4 place beginning in the summer months and will likely commence before 90 days after
5 adjournment; and

6 **Whereas,** the provisions of this bill are important to protect the integrity of the
7 harness racing and pulling events in the State; and

8 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
9 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
10 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
11 therefore,

12 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

13 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §102** is enacted to read:

14 **§102. Reciprocal disciplinary action**

15 The department shall obtain current listings from other jurisdictions of persons who
16 have been suspended or barred from pulling competitions. The department shall refuse to
17 allow any person who has been suspended or barred from pulling competitions in another
18 jurisdiction to compete in any pulling competition until the department receives
19 notification from the jurisdiction that has suspended or barred the person from pulling
20 competitions that the person is again eligible to compete in pulling competitions in that
21 jurisdiction.

22 **Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §283,** as amended by PL 2003, c. 401, §16, is further amended to
23 read:

24 **§283. Reciprocal disciplinary action**

25 The department shall ~~act to~~ obtain current listings from other ~~racing~~ jurisdictions of
26 persons in harness racing occupations regulated by the ~~racing jurisdiction~~ commission
27 who have been refused a license or who have had their license revoked or suspended.
28 The commission shall refuse to license or shall suspend the license of ~~these persons~~ any
29 person who has been refused a license or who has had that person's license revoked or
30 suspended in another jurisdiction until notification from the jurisdiction that refused to
31 license or suspended or revoked the license of the person that ~~they are~~ the person is again
32 eligible for licensing in ~~the racing that jurisdiction or racing jurisdictions in question.~~

33 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
34 legislation takes effect when approved.

1 **SUMMARY**

2 This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to obtain
3 current listings from other jurisdictions of people who have been suspended or barred
4 from agricultural pulling competitions and requires the department to suspend or bar from
5 pulling competitions any person in those listings until the department receives
6 notification from the jurisdiction that suspended or barred the person that the person is no
7 longer suspended or barred. This bill also amends the reciprocal disciplinary action
8 provision in harness racing for people in the harness racing industry who have been
9 refused a license or have had their licenses suspended or revoked in another jurisdiction
10 by clarifying certain language in that provision.