

Chapter 642

(House Bill 455)

AN ACT concerning

**Video Lottery Terminal Proceeds – Purse Dedication Account – Ocean Downs
Race Course Operating Loss Assistance**

FOR the purpose of altering the authority of the Ocean Downs Race Course to use certain Purse Dedication Account funds generated from video lottery terminal proceeds for operating loss assistance to support a certain minimum number of live racing days at the racecourse; and generally relating to the use of Purse Dedication Account funds by the Ocean Downs Race Course for operating loss assistance.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 9–1A–28(a) and (e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 9–1A–28(g)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Government

9–1A–28.

(a) There is a Purse Dedication Account under the authority of the State Racing Commission.

(e) The amount of funds allocated to standardbred purses and the Standardbred Race Fund shall be allocated as follows:

(1) 89% to standardbred purses at Rosecroft Raceway, Ocean Downs Race Course, and the racecourse in Allegany County, allocated based on the number of live racing days at each track location; and

(2) 11% to the Standardbred Race Fund.

(g) (1) Of the amount provided from the Purse Dedication Account under

subsection (e)(1) of this section:

(i) for Ocean Downs Race Course, [up to \$1,200,000 each year for calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024] **AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO BUT NOT EXCEEDING \$30,000 MULTIPLIED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIVE RACING DAYS HELD DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR** may be used to provide financial assistance for operating losses **INCURRED DURING THAT CALENDAR YEAR**, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, to support a minimum of 40 annual live racing days unless the racing licensee is prevented by weather, acts of God, or other circumstances beyond the racing licensee's control; and

(ii) for Rosecroft Raceway, up to \$1,200,000 each year for calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 may be used to provide financial assistance for operating losses, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, to support a minimum of 40 annual live racing days unless the racing licensee is prevented by weather, acts of God, or other circumstances beyond the racing licensee's control.

(2) Funds received by Ocean Downs Race Course or Rosecroft Raceway under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not be used to contribute to a campaign finance entity under Title 13 of the Election Law Article or make an independent expenditure as defined in § 1–101 of the Election Law Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2023.