

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



CARL E. HEASTIE, SPEAKER
J. GARY PRETLOW, CHAIR

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON
RACING AND WAGERING



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

J. Gary Pretlow
Assemblyman 89th District

PLEASE REPLY TO:
845 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

CHAIR
Racing & Wagering

COMMITTEES
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Assembly Steering Committee

December 15, 2021

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
Room 932
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As Chairman of the Assembly Standing Committee on Racing and Wagering, I am pleased to submit to you the Committee's 2021 Annual Report. Each year, the Committee continues to make advances in the racing world, working to advance legislation aiming to improve horse racing and gaming activities in the state of New York. This included legislation which addressed charitable gaming, responsible gaming, the lottery, the horse racing industry, and casino gambling.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Committee reported several bills that would provide continued support to the horse racing, horse breeding, and gaming industries, including bills that would address gambling advertisement restrictions, the return of lottery tickets, and various technical clean up language changes and extenders to the racing, pari-mutuel and breeding law.

In addition, the Committee also advanced legislation to: require bell jar tickets to be marked with a legend from the NYS Gaming Commission, extend certain payment procedures for the New York Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund, establish a health insurance program for trainers, and to extend certain additional funding support for backstretch workers and their families. The Committee was also involved in significant legislation during the budgetary process, including mobile sports wagering, creating a petition process for the commercial casinos for their slot-tax rates, and providing flexibility for Catskill and Capital Off-Track Betting Corporations with their capital acquisition funds.

The 2021 Legislative Session experienced ongoing challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact New York State. The racing and gaming industries continuously affected were the casinos, VLT facilities, and racetracks as their doors were still operating at limited capacity in the effort to reduce the spread of the virus. As New York gaming facilities begin moving towards operating at maximum capacity once again, new procedures have been implemented to allow the commercial casinos to petition for a lower slot-tax rate for some relief. This would require an employment plan in order to establish annual employment goals to either rehire employees laid off during the COVID-19 pandemic or create new job opportunities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Assembly Standing Committee on Racing and Wagering for their input and support during the 2021 Legislative Session. I would also like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your continued support. The Committee members and I look forward to working with you during the upcoming 2022 Legislative Session to continue to strengthen New York State's great racing, wagering and gaming infrastructure.

Warm Personal Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Gary Pretlow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Gary Pretlow

Chair, Committee on Racing and Wagering

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RACING AND WAGERING**

J. Gary Pretlow, Chair

Committee Members

Majority

Aileen Gunther
Michaëlle Solages
Carrie Woerner
Angelo Santabarbara
Stacey Pheffer Amato
Clyde Vanel
Nader Sayegh

Minority

Jeffrey Gallahan
Jake Ashby
Jarett Gandolfo

Staff

Giovanni Ramirez Warren, *Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy*
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Nicole VanAuken, *Program and Counsel Secretary*
Troy Mackey, *Committee Coordinator*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Racing and Wagering has jurisdiction over legislation affecting all activities related to horse racing and various forms of gaming across New York State. Its purview includes the New York State Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law, as well as portions of the New York State Tax Law and the New York State General Municipal Law.

The New York State Gaming Commission is responsible for regulating all aspects of racing and gaming activity within the State, including pari-mutuel wagering, Class III Indian Gaming, the New York Lottery, video lottery gaming, charitable gaming, commercial casino gambling, and interactive fantasy sports. The New York State Gaming Commission is comprised of four divisions:

- The *Division of Lottery* is responsible for the operation and administration of the New York Lottery for education, and for all aspects of promotional activities related to video lottery gaming.
- The *Charitable Gaming Division* is responsible for licensing charitable organizations and verifying the lawful disbursement of proceeds from games of chance such as bingo, bell jar tickets, Las Vegas nights and raffles.
- The *Gaming Division* is responsible for the appropriate administration, regulation and oversight of commercial casino gambling, video lottery gaming, and Indian gaming on tribal land as defined by lawful Tribal-State compacts established pursuant to the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988.
- The *Horse Racing and Pari-Mutuel Wagering Division* is responsible for the supervision, regulation and administration of all horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering activities.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Committee acted on bills which: establish health insurance programs for New York trainers, establish a commission on retired racehorses, create a legend for bell jar tickets, would require vendors to return lottery tickets to the bearer of the instrument, and provided continued support to both the Standardbred and Thoroughbred horse racing and breeding industries.

II. 2021 LEGISLATIVE ACTION

A. State Lottery

The New York Lottery was enacted in the New York State Constitution in 1966 to generate increased aid to education for local school districts. The New York Lottery contributed \$2.9 billion in State Fiscal Year 2020-21 to help support primary and secondary education in New York State. The New York State lottery program continues to be the largest and most profitable in the United States, earning over \$74.3 billion to support education since its founding.

Along with traditional lottery games, such as scratch-off tickets and number drawings like *Mega Millions* and *Powerball*, the New York Lottery is also responsible for all aspects of promotional activities for the eight video lottery terminal facilities (also known as “racinos”) located at various racetracks across the State. These facilities offer casino-style gaming with winning outcomes transmitted by a central system administered by the New York State Gaming Commission. In addition to contributing a significant amount to State education funding, net proceeds from video lottery gaming also provide vital assistance to New York’s horse racing and breeding industries.

1. Returned Lottery Tickets

A.3751 (Pretlow); Reported to Ways and Means

This bill would require lottery retail agents to return any previously purchased ticket which has been submitted to verification to the customer, once such verification has been completed. This is to help remedy situations where a lottery sales agent, either intentionally or by mistake, informs a customer that they have a losing ticket when they in fact do not. As lottery tickets are bearer instruments, this legislation would prevent situations where someone else could then redeem the ticket and keep the prize money.

2. Vernon Downs Operational Expenses

A.7572 (Buttenschon)/S.6832 (Addabbo); Chapter 143 of the Laws of 2021

Since their inception, Video Lottery Terminal facilities have been an integral part of the gaming landscape in New York State. These facilities provide funds to protect the harness racing industry throughout the year, and it is crucial to ensure these facilities continue to thrive. This law extends provisions allowing Vernon Downs VLT facility to divert funds from administration expenses for the use of operational expenses, in order to maintain the facility and continue operations.

B. Class III Casino Gaming

Class III Casino gaming was authorized by an amendment to the New York State Constitution in 2013. Since its inception, casino gaming has expanded greatly across upstate New York. With the creation of 4 upstate commercial casinos, Rivers Casino in

Schenectady, Del Lago Casino in Waterloo, Tioga Downs Casino and Raceway in Nichols, and Resorts World Catskills in Thompson, along with 3 additional casinos to be authorized and established in the greater New York City area starting in 2023, casino gaming has flourished within the state. In the years following the authorization of casino gaming, the gaming industry has grown in various ways. The concept of virtual gambling, wagering, and gaming has greatly evolved within the last few years, and mobile sports wagering has spread rapidly throughout the United States. Mobile Sports Wagering has risen to the forefront of conversations about the future of gaming in New York State, and discussions over the potential avenues in which to authorize mobile gambling have continued.

1. Regulation of Sports Betting and Mobile Sports Wagering

A.1257 (Pretlow)/ S.1183 (Addabbo); Reported to Committee on Codes

This bill would authorize mobile sports wagering through servers at the four upstate commercial casinos. Each commercial casino would be allowed to utilize two online platforms, and affiliates (OTBs or racetracks) would be able to use kiosks linked to the casino's server for those bets. Tribes would be able to waive sovereignty with respect to mobile sports wagering in order to offer an online platform hosted at a commercial casino. A royalty fee would be paid to the sports leagues per each calendar quarter of one fifth of one percent of wagers placed on their sport. Also, sports wagering within a casino would be taxed at 8.5% and mobile sports wagering would be taxed at 12%.

C. Horse Racing and Breeding

New York State is home to one of the leading horse racing programs in the nation. Each year, millions of dollars are wagered on races at the three largest Thoroughbred racetracks in the State, operated by the New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA); Aqueduct Racetrack in the South Ozone Park neighborhood of Queens; Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, which is the oldest horse racing venue in the United States and home of the prestigious Travers Stakes; and Belmont Park in Nassau County, host to the longest dirt track in North America as well as the third and final leg of the Triple Crown. Additionally, nestled in the State's picturesque Finger Lakes region, New York's fourth Thoroughbred track: Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack in Ontario County.

Across the State, there are also several Standardbred racetracks where patrons can view live harness (also known as "trotting") races: Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway in Westchester County; Hamburg Gaming and Buffalo Raceway at the Fairgrounds in Erie County; Batavia Downs Gaming in Genesee County; Vernon Downs Casino and Hotel in Oneida County; Monticello Raceway in Sullivan County; Saratoga Casino and Raceway in Saratoga County; and Tioga Downs Casino and Raceway in Tioga County.

In addition to attending live race meetings, racing fans can place wagers remotely through any of the State's five regional off-track betting corporations (OTBs) – Western, Capital, Catskill, Nassau or Suffolk. Because OTBs are public-benefit corporations, millions of dollars in wagering revenues have been distributed to aid local governments across the State since their inception in 1970. Both racetracks and OTBs feature simulcasting of races

taking place in New York State as well as races taking place in other states and countries around the world.

1. Payments to the New York State Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund
A.4509 (Pretlow)/ S.1463-A (Addabbo); Chapter 211 of the Laws of 2021

The New York State Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund (“the Fund”) has experienced a significant reduction in the payments it receives from racetracks and regional off-track betting corporations, due to the decline in wagers placed on horse races over the past few years. This has been limiting its ability to make required investments in the State’s racing and breeding program.

For these reasons, Chapter 473 of 2010 authorized the Fund to collect its percentage of wagers on a quarterly basis instead of annually. The chapter also increased the maximum percentage of the Fund’s revenues that could be used for: breeder awards, from 50 percent to 65 percent; publication and dissemination of information relating to the advancement and promotion of the breeding and raising of thoroughbreds in New York State and related agricultural pursuits, from five percent to six percent; and administration and management of the Fund, from four percent to five percent.

This law extends such provisions for an additional year, with a sunset date of October 28, 2022.

2. Payments to the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association
A.4408 (Pretlow)/ S.5723 (Addabbo); Chapter 216 of the Laws of 2021

This law extends the authorization for the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association (NYTHA) to receive an additional one percent of all purses collected from race meetings held at racetracks operated by the New York Racing Association, Inc., for a total of two percent, for an additional year, until August 31, 2022. This money is used to provide additional benevolence to backstretch employees, including medical and health benefits, counseling and social services, and scholarship opportunities. NYTHA also earmarks funds for retired racehorses, equine health, safety and research.

3. Health Insurance for New York Trainers
A. 5765-B(Pretlow)/S.4549-B (Addabbo); Chapter 450 of the Laws of 2021

This law establishes a health insurance program for New York thoroughbred trainers at New York Racing Association (NYRA) tracks. The program would be funded by three percent of the purse enhancement monies designated for the horsemen from video lottery gaming revenues. With a minimum race requirement to become eligible for the program, this could encourage trainers who currently don’t race at New York tracks very often to participate in additional races here in the state, thereby promoting the New York racing industry.

4. Commission on Retired Racehorses

A.3968 (Pretlow); Reported to Ways and Means

A continuing concern for the racing industry is how to best care for both standard and thoroughbred racehorses once they retire from their racing careers. For Thoroughbred racehorses, many only have a career span of 3-5 years. Therefore, it is important to find second careers or other safe and healthy avenues for horses once they have retired. The Commission on Retired Racehorses would study and make recommendations to the Legislature and Governor on how best to help these horses. The commission would also establish a database in order to monitor each retired racehorse in the State and their owners. The commission will consist of seven members: three appointed by the Governor, two appointed by the Temporary President of the Senate, and two appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

5. Coupled Entries

A.7024 (Woerner)/S.6390 (Addabbo); Veto Message 49

This bill would allow thoroughbred horses who are trained or ridden by a spouse, parent, issue, or member of the jockey's household to race in the same race without being coupled in the betting with any horse ridden by such jockey.

6. Horsemen's Health, Welfare, Pension, and Administrative Benefits

A.7248 (Pretlow)/S.6836 (Addabbo); Passed the Assembly

This bill would have the Gaming Commission require a licensed racetrack in Westchester County to withhold eight percent of all purses to pay to the horsemen's organization quarterly, in the absence of a contract between the racetrack and the horsemen's organization. The eight percent paid into the horsemen's organization would pay for welfare/healthcare for the backstretch workers, and would ensure that the cost of health insurance, pensions and administrative costs for the horsemen at Yonkers Raceway are covered if a contractual agreement is not made.

7. Disposition of Pari-Mutuel Pools

A.7306 (Pretlow)/S.6352 (Addabbo); Chapter 367 of the Laws of 2021

This law clarifies the continuation of 5.94% of the total pools resulting from on-track regular bets be used exclusively for purses awarded at races conducted by the New York Racing Association, Inc. Without this clarification, there could be a substantive change to certain tax rates, which was not meant to be eliminated in Chapter 243 of the Laws of 2020.

8. Steward Duties in Thoroughbred Racing

A.7508 (Pheffer Amato); Passed the Assembly

This legislation would authorize the Gaming Commission to designate and pay someone to act as a steward in the event that the official steward of the Commission cannot act or is

absent or fails or cannot appoint one of the other stewards, instead of having a Gaming Commission member fill that role. This would codify the current practice of the Gaming Commission, by designating someone with background knowledge and expertise in the absence of the official Commission steward.

D. Charitable Gaming

Charitable gaming is a popular fundraising device for local organizations that want to offer games of chance such as bingo, raffles, bell jar tickets and other similar games. In New York State, these games are offered by licensed charitable, religious and nonprofit organizations, as approved by the New York State Gaming Commission, on the condition that such games must occur in a municipality that has passed a local law or ordinance authorizing charitable gaming activities. Over the years, revenues from charitable gaming have been steadily decreasing, putting many of these organizations in jeopardy. Recent focus has been put on finding new ways to increase these revenues in order to provide greater funding support for important programs and services in the communities in which these organizations serve.

1. New York State Legend on Bell Jar Tickets

A.3967 (Pretlow)/S.6230 (Sanders); Veto Message 48

With the popularity of bell jar games as a device for fundraising for charitable organizations, efforts to both keep the game within standards of the State and easily understood by such organizations is a priority. To relieve administrative burdens on volunteer organizations, this bill requires that all bell jar tickets sold in New York State have an approved New York State legend located on the ticket. This legend would simplify the process of determining the legality of bell jar tickets for sale.

E. Responsible Gaming

Gambling addictions can occur in many different forms and affect many people. It is often referred to as a “hidden illness” because, unlike other addictions, there are no obvious physical signs or symptoms. With the recent expansion of gambling in New York State, it has now become more essential than ever to review and improve existing rules and regulations designed to address problem gambling in order to ensure consistency and determine the best ways to advance New York’s long-term commitment to promoting responsible gaming.

1. Advertisements for Gambling and Sports Betting

A.3826-A (Vanel); Passed the Assembly

This bill requires the Gaming Commission to cooperate with addiction services and supports to post signs including information on the internet to assist people suffering from compulsive gambling and include that all advertisements clearly state a problem gambling hotline number. Included in this bill, mobile sports wagering licensees are inserted in the definition of “advertisement” in order to capture the newly implemented mobile sports wagering operators within the advertisement restrictions.

III. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE HORSE RACING INDUSTRY ON NEW YORK STATE

On January 14, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Racing and Wagering held a hearing to review the impact of the Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing and breeding industry on the economy of New York State and to examine how the industry has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those testifying included various industry stakeholders including The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA), the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (NYTHA), the New York Thoroughbred Breeders (NYTB), the Standardbred Owners Association of New York and more. Those participating testified to changes that occurred during the pandemic such as a decrease in race days, and a need to shift some current regulatory structures to be able to compete in the digital age.

On December 9, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Racing and Wagering held a hearing to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory structure of the horse racing industry in New York State, as well as the impact it has on the businesses that support it. The Committee heard testimony from stakeholders in the industry such as NYRA, NYTHA, the Finger Lakes Horsemen Benevolent Protective Association, and more, as well as the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, racehorse trainers and owners, veterinarians and those involved in racehorse aftercare. Testimony was heard on the industry's economic impact on the state, equine safety including changes that may come with the federal Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act, purse funding designated for the horsemen, as well how the industry can bring out-of-state clients and business to New York.

IV. STATE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 ENACTED BUDGET

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021-2022 Enacted Budget, with an allotted \$103,352,000 all funds appropriation for the Gaming Commission, included several significant additions and changes to New York State's racing, wagering, and gaming programs. Some of these laws include:

- repealing the state admission tax provisions related to certain racing activities and would instead impose the State sales tax on such admissions;
- authorizing the Gaming Commission to issue a request for information (RFI) about the three un-awarded commercial casino licenses;
- extending the current pari-mutuel tax rates and provisions related to the simulcasting of out-of-state thoroughbred and harness races for one year;
- removing statutory drawing restrictions for the Take 5, Pick 10, and other lotto games;
- transferring the responsibilities and duties of the Office of the Gaming Inspector General under the Gaming Commission to the Office of the Inspector General;
- establishing a process for commercial casinos to petition the Gaming Commission for a lower slot-tax rate, not to be less than 25%;
- modifying the payment structure and schedule for racing support payments made by certain gaming facilities to horsemen and breeders; and
- authorizing Catskill and Capital Off-Track Betting Corporations to utilize a percentage of the capital acquisition fund for the purposes of statutory obligations, payroll, and expenditures necessary to accept wagers for one year.

The SFY 2021-2022 Enacted Budget also authorized mobile sports wagering, with platform providers chosen by the Gaming Commission through a competitive bidding process. The Commission would be required to select a minimum of two platform providers, and four operators for the state no later than 150 days after receiving the final application. Platform providers would be required to pay a certain percentage pursuant to the competitive bidding process, and that tax rate shall not be lower than 12%. The platform providers who are chosen will be required to pay a one-time licensing fee of \$25 million, deposited into the state lottery fund for education aid. Casinos will be required to house a mobile sports wagering platform provider's server and other equipment on the physical premises of the licensed facility. The platform providers shall pay to the casinos \$5 million per year for the duration of the time the server is hosted.

V. OUTLOOK FOR 2022

During the 2022 Legislative Session, the Assembly Standing Committee on Racing and Wagering will continue to make progress towards developing and enacting legislation that strengthens all facets of New York State's racing, wagering, and gaming infrastructure. The COVID-19 pandemic heavily impacted the four upstate commercial casinos, as they were still operating at limited capacity. The Committee will not only continue to address the expansion of gambling in New York State with the newly implemented mobile sports wagering program, but also monitor new challenges these facilities may face as they continue to increase capacity.

The Committee will continue to remain steadfast in supporting legislation aimed to strengthen New York State's racing industry. It is important to protect not only racetrack employees, jockeys, and exercise riders, but also the thousands of Standardbred and Thoroughbred horses throughout the State. In 2022, equine safety will continue to be a priority for the Committee, along with addressing the ever present need for adequate aftercare practices and procedures for the industry's retired racehorse population.

Finally, the Committee will continue its dedication to supporting legislation that aims to enrich the State's racing, wagering, and gaming infrastructures by focusing on important issues such as sustaining charitable gaming for organizations, promoting responsible gaming practices, maintaining transparency between the industry and those it serves, and enhancing revenues for education support for municipalities across the State.

APPENDIX A

2021 Summary Sheet

**Summary of Action on All Bills Referred to the
New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Racing and Wagering**

Final Action	Assembly Bills	Senate Bills	Total Bills
Bills Reported With or Without Amendment			
To Floor; Not Returning to Committee (Favorable)	2	0	2
To Ways and Means	4	0	4
To Codes	3	0	3
To Rules	4	0	4
To Judiciary	0	0	0
Total	13	0	13
Bills Having Committee Reference Changed			
Total	0	0	0
Senate Bills Substituted or Recalled			
Substituted		0	0
Recalled		0	0
Total		0	0
Bills Defeated in Committee	0	0	0
Bills Held for Consideration with a Roll-Call Vote	0	0	0
Bills Never Reported, Died in Committee	67	11	78
Bills Having Enacting Clauses Stricken	0	0	0
Motions to Discharge Lost	0	0	0
Total Bills in Committee	80	11	91
Total Number of Committee Meetings Held	5		

APPENDIX B

Chapters of 2021

CHAPTER	ASSEMBLY BILL (SPONSOR)	SENATE BILL (SPONSOR)	DESCRIPTION
143	A.7572 (Buttenschon)	S.6832 (Addabbo)	Extends the authorization for Vernon Downs video lottery gaming facility to use administrative and capital awards funds for the use of operating expenses, for two years.
211	A.4509 (Pretlow)	S.1463-A (Addabbo)	Extends payments to the New York State Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund for an additional one year.
216	A.4408 (Pretlow)	S.5723 (Addabbo)	Extends the authorization for the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association to receive an additional 1% of purses collected from race meetings held at tracks operated by the New York Racing Association, Inc., for one year.
367	A.7306 (Pretlow)	S.6352 (Addabbo)	Clarifies the continuation of the pari-mutuel tax rate for on-track regular bets at races conducted by the New York Racing Association, Inc.
450	A.5765-B (Pretlow)	S.4549-B (Addabbo)	Establishes a health insurance program for thoroughbred trainers at New York Racing Association, Inc. tracks, to be funded by 3% of the purse enhancement monies designated for the horsemen from video lottery gaming revenues.

APPENDIX C

Bills Vetoed in 2021

VETO MEMO	ASSEMBLY BILL (SPONSOR)	SENATE BILL (SPONSOR)	DESCRIPTION
48	A.3967 (Pretlow)	S.6230 (Sanders)	Would require bell jar tickets authorized to be sold in the state of New York to be marked with a legend approved by the NYS Gaming Commission.
49	A.7024 (Woerner)	S.6390 (Addabbo)	Would allow thoroughbred horses who are trained or ridden by a spouse, parent, issue or member of the jockey's household to race in the same race without being coupled in the betting.

APPENDIX D

Additional Bills Reported in 2021

ASSEMBLY BILL (SPONSOR)	LAST ACTION	DESCRIPTION
A.1257 (Pretlow)	Reported to Codes	Would authorize mobile sports wagering through hosted servers at the commercial casinos in New York State and make changes to the brick-and-mortar sports wagering structure.
A.3751 (Pretlow)	Reported to Ways and Means	Would require lottery sales agents to return any previously purchased ticket which has been submitted for verification to the customer.
A.3826-A (Vanel)	Passed Assembly	Would require the Gaming Commission to work with the Office of Addiction Services and Supports to post signs and information on the internet to assist those suffering from compulsive gambling and ensure all advertisements state a problem gambling hotline number, including those for mobile sports wagering.
A.3968 (Pretlow)	Reported to Ways and Means	Would create a Commission on Retired Racehorses to study and establish a database reflecting the ownership of retired racehorses in New York State.
A.7248 (Pretlow)	Passed Assembly	Would authorize the Gaming Commission to require a racetrack in Westchester County to withhold 8% of all purses to pay to the horsemen's association to be used for welfare/health plans for the backstretch workers in the absence of a contractual agreement.
A.7508 (Pheffer Amato)	Passed Assembly	Would authorize the Gaming Commission to designate someone with background knowledge and expertise in the absence of the official Commission Steward for thoroughbred races.