



# Senate Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development

Jason R. Brehouse, Esq.  
Executive Director & Counsel  
jbrehouse@pasen.gov

Senator Kim L. Ward  
Chairman

Senate Box 203039 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3039 • (717) 787-6063

Senate Bill 643, Printer's No. 617

Date: June 19, 2013

Sponsor: Senator Waugh

## Bill Summary

Senate Bill 643, Printer's No. 617, amends section 201 (a) [relating to the establishment of the commissions – State Horse Racing Commission (Thoroughbred Horse Racing)] of the act of December 17, 1981 (P.L.435, No.135), known as the Race Horse Industry Reform Act, by further providing for the composition of the State Horse Racing Commission in that not more than two of the three commissioners shall at the time of appointment reside in the same county. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure geographical diversity among the members of the State Horse Racing Commission.

It should be noted that other state commissions (i.e. Fish Commission and Game Commission) require that members be chosen from specific regions. While this legislation would not be as restrictive, it does seek to provide for more geographical diversity among the State Horse Racing Commission in that Pennsylvania's horse racing industry is statewide in its scope.

This act shall take effect in 60 days and the provisions of this act shall apply to individuals nominated as members of the commission after the effective date.

## Amendment Summary [A00359] (Ward)

This amendment would amend section 201 (b) (relating to the establishment of the commissions – State Harness Racing Commission) of the Race Horse Industry Reform Act, by further providing for the composition of the State Harness Racing Commission in that not more than two of the three commissioners shall at the time of appointment reside in the same county. This amendment to the composition of the State Harness Racing Commission parallels the amendment to the composition of the State Horse Racing Commission proposed in the current print number.

## Existing Law

Race Horse Industry Reform Act (Act 135 of 1981) – This act provides that the State Horse Racing Commission (Thoroughbred Horse Racing) shall consist of three members without any restrictions regarding where the commissioners reside in the Commonwealth.

## Prior Session Legislation

[2011-12] – Senate Bill 800 (Waugh) was identical legislation as introduced in the prior session and assigned to Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee (CERD), although it was reported as amended from CERD to apply the same geographical diversity provision to the State Harness Racing Commission. Senate Bill 800 was passed (50-0) by the Senate (6/21/11).

[2009-10] – Senate Bill 371 (Waugh) was identical legislation introduced in the prior session and assigned to the Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, but was not considered.

[2007-08] – Senate Bill 1604 (Waugh) was identical legislation introduced in the prior session and assigned to the State Government Committee, but was not considered.