

PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING ON HORSE RACING IN VIRGINIA
A REPORT OF THE
VIRGINIA ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
To
THE GOVERNOR
And
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA



SD 9, 1960

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Purchases and Supply
Richmond
1959

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PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING ON HORSE RACING IN VIRGINIA
REPORT OF THE
VIRGINIA ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

December 15, 1959

To:

HONORABLE J. LINDSAY ALMOND, JR., *Governor of Virginia*

and

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

The General Assembly at its 1958 Regular Session adopted Senate Joint Resolution No. 16, which directed the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council to make a study of the advantages and disadvantages of legalizing horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering in Virginia. The text of this resolution was as follows:

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Directing the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council to study the advisability of legalizing of horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering in Virginia.

Whereas, the breeding, raising and training of thoroughbred horses has traditionally been an activity at which Virginians have excelled, and its expansion and growth might well be advantageous to the State through the removal of land from competitive farm use and its profitable utilization for permanent pasturage and other purposes in connection with the breeding and raising of horses; and

Whereas, making Virginia more attractive for these purposes would benefit the economy of the State by encouraging capital investments and increased payrolls, and would provide substantial tax funds to the State and the localities from these sources as well as from the legalizing of pari-mutuel wagering on horse races; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of Virginia, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council is directed to make a study and report upon the advisability of legalizing horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering in Virginia, the benefits therefrom to the State's economy and the revenues which might accrue therefrom to the State and local treasuries, the changes in existing law which would be necessary to permit this, the problems of enforcing the criminal statutes of this State that might be anticipated, and the statutes which should be enacted upon this matter. The Council shall complete its study and make its report to the Governor and General Assembly not later than December one, nineteen hundred fifty-nine.

This study would involve a review of the long-established policy of the State which has prohibited horse racing where wagering was an incident thereto. In view of this policy, the Council decided to make the study itself. Considerable information was obtained concerning the statutes of

other states dealing with horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering. At this point the Special Session of 1959 began. When the Session was over work on some twenty-two other studies had to be carried forward.

The Council now finds itself unable to carry out the directive contained in Senate Joint Resolution No. 16. We do not believe that we should make a recommendation to the General Assembly on this or any other matter without careful study of all phases of the subject which would include a consideration of the advantages and disadvantages, both present and prospective. The resolution points out a number of consequences which might occur if pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing were permitted in Virginia and specifically directs an investigation of potential benefits to the State's economy and possible tax revenues which might accrue both to the State and to local governments. It also directs an inquiry into problems of enforcing criminal statutes which might result. The answers to such questions could not be furnished without careful consideration of the experience of other states, including three of our neighboring states, in which horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering are permitted.

The members of the Council, as members of the General Assembly, have had during this biennium to devote a considerable amount of time to attendance upon the longest session of the General Assembly which has been held in recent years. In addition a number of the other investigations assigned to the Council have been unusually time consuming.

The Council, accordingly, must report that it is not in a position to make a recommendation on this subject. If the General Assembly desires that such a study be made, it may so indicate by the adoption of an appropriate resolution at its forthcoming session.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. DANIEL, Chairman

ROBERT Y. BUTTON, Vice-Chairman

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