

**Public Safety and Security Committee  
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No.:** HB-6048

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF GREYHOUND RACING IN THE

**Title:** STATE.

**Vote Date:** 3/24/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/2/2021

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

**SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Public Safety and Service Committee

**Co-Sponsors:**

Rep. Michael D'Agostino, 91<sup>st</sup> Dist.

Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditria, 105<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. David Michel, 146<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Rep. David K. Labriola, 131<sup>st</sup> Dist.

Sen. Will Haskell, 26<sup>th</sup> Dist.

Et Al.

**REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill would remove from state statute the authorization for live greyhound racing to take place in Connecticut. Under current Connecticut law greyhound racing could come back into the state. It is important to note that greyhound racing is illegal in 41 states, as it is documented that the treatment of greyhound's that race is cruel and inhumane. Wagering through simulcast will still be allowed in the state under this bill.

**RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None Expressed

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Michael D'Agostino, Representative, State of Connecticut**

Rep. D'Agostino is in support of this bill. Testimony from Rep. D'Agostino was written through the eyes of his rescue dog, Vella the Greyt. Dogs are bred to race at all cost. Many

dogs are forced to race with broken shoulders and legs and some never recover from injuries. The dogs are routinely trained with live rabbits which are killed. Dogs are also euthanized right on the track in front of other dogs. By banning greyhound racing, Connecticut will send a strong message we do not want greyhound racing to happen in our state again.

**Nicole Klarides-Ditria, Representative, State of Connecticut**

Rep. Klarides-Ditria is in support of this bill. As Co-chair of the Animal Welfare Caucus, she feels it is important for Connecticut to enact this piece of legislation. Though Connecticut has currently no greyhound racetracks, it was a popular pastime. It was with the help of advocacy groups, we learned of the cruel treatment of these dogs. Greyhounds that are retired face even a worse treatment as they age and become unprofitable, they are euthanized or carelessly discarded.

**Jo-Anne Basile, Executive Director, CT Votes for Animals**

Ms. Basile is in support of this bill. Greyhound racing and its attendant live lure baiting is a cruel and grossly inhumane form of gambling. The financial decline of greyhound racing in Connecticut caused its last track to close in 2005. This decline is a reflection of the public's disdain for the abusive tactics associated with racing. The technical loophole that exists in which greyhound racing could resume is shocking. Passage of HB6048 will formally close the statutory book on live greyhound racing in CT.

**Christine Dorchak, Esq., President GREY2K USA**

Ms. Dorchak is in support of this bill. Commercial greyhound racing was introduced in 1976 decades after dog racing became legalized in other states. Due to the decline in wagering both Connecticut tracks were closed by 2005. Shoreline Star in Bridgeport remains open for simulcast wagering. This bill has no effect on this activity. Local track owners and their allies have no illusions that dog racing may again become popular or viable. On behalf of our thousands of members in this state, Ms Dorchak supports this bill.

**Annie Hornish, Connecticut Senior State Director, The Humane Society of the United States**

Ms. Hornish writes in support of this bill. Greyhound racing is associated with horrific animal welfare problems and is now illegal in 41 states, including our neighboring states, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. This will remove from statute authorization for live dog racing, an activity that ended in Connecticut long ago.

**Elizabeth Abbe**  
**Rosamund Downing**  
**LuAnn Giunta**  
**Patricia Harmon, PhD.**  
**Sue Kautz**

**Amy Mallardi**  
**Barbara Rudnick**  
**Julie Stankiewicz**  
**Sherry Weirnicke**

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk**

**Date: 3/31/2021**