
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6048

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF GREYHOUND RACING IN THE STATE.

SUMMARY

This bill repeals the statutes authorizing dog tracks and dog racing in Connecticut, but not those pertaining to off-track betting (OTB) on dog racing. It explicitly allows OTB operators to conduct betting on out-of-state dog races.

The bill also makes related technical and conforming changes, including eliminating the dog-racing license and references to dog-racing in (1) fees imposed to fund chronic gambling rehabilitation programs and (2) bans on smoking and e-cigarette use.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

BACKGROUND

Dog Racing

Although dog racing is currently legal, there has not been an active dog track in the state in over a decade. Plainfield Greyhound Park, the state's first track, opened in 1976 and closed in 2005. A state jai alai track in Bridgeport was converted into the Shoreline Star greyhound racing facility in 1995. The race track closed in 2006, but the facility was renamed Winners Shoreline Star and operates simulcast wagering on thoroughbred and harness races, greyhound races, and jai alai. There are approximately a dozen OTB facilities operating in the state.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 9 (03/24/2021)