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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 5174**

#### ***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 explicitly allows off-track betting (OTB) operators to conduct betting on out-of-state dog races. Current law generally prohibits the Department of Consumer Protection from issuing any new licenses to conduct dog racing.

The bill makes numerous conforming changes, including repealing provisions on the (1) tax and takeout rates for bets at dog racing facilities, (2) fees imposed on dog races to fund chronic gambling rehabilitation programs, and (3) bans on smoking and vaping at dog race tracks. It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Dog Racing***

There has not been an active dog race track in the state since 2006. 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 2005, but the facility was renamed Winners Shoreline Star and operated simulcast wagering until 2021 on horse races, greyhound races, and jai alai.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19    Nay 5    (03/03/2022)