



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 88**

January Session, 2023

House Bill No. 6615

*House of Representatives, March 16, 2023*

The Committee on General Law reported through REP. D'AGOSTINO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING DOG RACING.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (i) to (s), inclusive, of section 12-574 of the  
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

4 (i) The commissioner shall adopt regulations governing the operation  
5 of the off-track betting system and facilities, tracks, stables [, kennels]  
6 and frontons, including the regulation of betting in connection  
7 therewith, to [~~insure~~] ensure the integrity and security of the conduct of  
8 meetings and the broadcast of racing events held pursuant to this  
9 chapter. Such regulations shall include provision for the imposition of  
10 fines and suspension of licenses for violations thereof. [Prior to the  
11 adoption of any regulations concerning the treatment of animals at any  
12 dog race track, the commissioner shall notify the National Greyhound  
13 Association of the contents of such regulations and of its right to request  
14 a hearing pursuant to chapter 54.] The commissioner shall have the  
15 authority to impose a fine of up to (1) seventy-five thousand dollars for

16 any violation of such regulations by a licensee authorized to conduct a  
17 meeting or operate the off-track betting system under this section; (2)  
18 five thousand dollars for any violation of such regulations by a business  
19 organization licensed as an affiliate licensee authorized to exercise  
20 control over an association; and (3) two thousand five hundred dollars  
21 for any such violation by any other licensee licensed by the  
22 commissioner. The stewards or judges of a meeting acting in accordance  
23 with such regulations shall have the authority to impose a fine of up to  
24 five hundred dollars for any such violation by such licensee, and the  
25 players' manager of a jai alai exhibition acting in accordance with such  
26 regulations shall have the authority to recommend to the judges that a  
27 fine should be considered for a player who may have violated such  
28 regulations. The commissioner may delegate to the stewards and judges  
29 of a meeting the power to suspend the license of any occupational  
30 licensee employed in this state by an association licensee for a period  
31 not to exceed sixty days for any violation of such regulations. If any  
32 license is suspended, such stewards and judges of a meeting shall state  
33 the reasons therefor in writing. All fines imposed pursuant to this  
34 section shall be paid over to the General Fund upon receipt by the  
35 department. Any person or business organization fined or suspended  
36 pursuant to this section shall have a right of appeal to the commissioner  
37 for a hearing that shall be conducted pursuant to chapter 54. Any person  
38 or business organization aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner  
39 following such a hearing shall have a right of appeal pursuant to section  
40 4-183.

41 (j) The commissioner [shall have the power to] may require that the  
42 books and records of any licensee, other than an occupational licensee,  
43 [shall] be maintained in any manner which [he] the commissioner may  
44 deem best, and that any financial or other statements based on such  
45 books and records [shall] be prepared in accordance with generally  
46 accepted accounting principles in such form as [he] the commissioner  
47 shall prescribe. The commissioner or [his] the commissioner's designee  
48 shall also be authorized to visit, to investigate and to place expert  
49 accountants and such other persons as [he] the commissioner may deem  
50 necessary, in the offices, tracks, frontons, off-track betting facilities or

51 places of business of any such licensee, for the purpose of satisfying  
52 [himself or herself] the commissioner or such designee that the  
53 department's regulations are strictly complied with.

54 (k) The commissioner may at any time for good cause require the  
55 removal of any employee or official employed by any licensee  
56 [hereunder] under this section.

57 (l) The commissioner may, on [his or her] the commissioner's own  
58 motion or upon application, exempt any person or business  
59 organization from the licensing requirements of this chapter or some or  
60 all of the disclosure requirements of chapter 226b, provided the  
61 applicant does not exercise control in or over an integral part of any  
62 activity which is authorized under this chapter. The burden of proving  
63 that an exemption should be granted rests solely with the applicant. The  
64 commissioner may limit or condition the terms of an exemption and  
65 such determination shall be final.

66 (m) Any person aiding or abetting in the operation of an off-track  
67 betting system or the conduct of any meeting within this state at which  
68 racing or the exhibition of the game of jai alai shall be permitted for any  
69 stake, purse or reward, except in accordance with a license duly issued  
70 and unsuspended or unrevoked by the commissioner, shall be guilty of  
71 a class A misdemeanor.

72 (n) The majority of the membership of the board of directors of any  
73 corporation licensed to operate the off-track betting system or to hold or  
74 conduct any meeting within the state of Connecticut at which racing or  
75 the exhibition of the game of jai alai shall be permitted for any stake,  
76 purse or reward, shall be residents of the state of Connecticut.

77 (o) Any license granted under this section, other than an association  
78 license authorizing the licensee to conduct a meeting or operate the off-  
79 track betting system, as described in subsection (a) of this section, or an  
80 affiliate license authorizing the licensee to exercise control in or over an  
81 association licensee, as described in subsection (e) of this section, shall  
82 be effective for not more than one year from the date of issuance. Initial

83 application for and renewal of any license shall be in such form and  
84 manner as the commissioner shall prescribe by regulation.

85 [(p) Any person or business organization issued a license to conduct  
86 dog racing shall establish a pet adoption program for the proper  
87 housing and care of retired greyhounds and shall provide financial  
88 support for such program and any facility operated to implement such  
89 program.

90 (q) Any person or business organization issued a license to conduct  
91 dog racing pursuant to subsection (c) of section 12-574c shall employ  
92 persons who, at the time of employment, are recipients of assistance  
93 under the state-administered general assistance program, state  
94 supplement program, medical assistance program, temporary family  
95 assistance program or supplemental nutrition assistance program to fill  
96 not less than twenty per cent of the positions created by the conversion  
97 of a jai alai fronton to a dog race track if such persons have been trained  
98 for such employment by public or publicly funded agencies in  
99 coordination with such licensee.

100 (r) Any person or business organization issued a license to conduct  
101 dog racing pursuant to subsection (c) of section 12-574c shall provide an  
102 on-site child care center, as described in section 19a-77, for use by  
103 employees of the dog race track. Such licensee shall employ persons  
104 who, at the time of employment, are recipients of aid under chapter 302  
105 or 308 to fill not less than fifty per cent of the positions at such child care  
106 center if such persons have been trained for such employment by public  
107 or publicly funded agencies in coordination with such licensee.

108 (s) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter to the  
109 contrary, any person or business organization issued a license to  
110 conduct dog racing may operate on a year-round basis and may conduct  
111 such number of performances as it may elect, provided the total number  
112 of such performances does not exceed five hundred eighty  
113 performances in any calendar year.]

114 Sec. 2. Section 12-574c of the general statutes is repealed and the

115 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

116 (a) The Department of Consumer Protection shall not issue a license  
117 authorizing any person, firm, corporation or association to conduct  
118 horse racing [, dog racing] or jai alai events.

119 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
120 the department may renew any license issued prior to May 23, 1979, to  
121 conduct horse racing or jai alai events or issue such a license to a  
122 currently operating facility.

123 [(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
124 the department may, on or after July 5, 1991, issue one additional license  
125 authorizing a person or business organization to conduct dog racing to  
126 a person or business organization holding a license to conduct jai alai  
127 events or to the successor of such business organization upon the  
128 surrender of the license to conduct jai alai events.]

129 [(d)] (c) No licensee shall move any horse race track [, dog race track]  
130 or jai alai fronton to any municipality other than the municipality in  
131 which such facility was located on July 5, 1991.

132 Sec. 3. Section 12-574a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
133 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

134 (a) Whenever a person or business organization files an application  
135 with the department for a license to conduct an activity regulated by  
136 section 12-574, as amended by this act, exclusive of renewal license  
137 applications, the department shall forward within five days to the town  
138 clerk of the town within which such activity is proposed to be carried  
139 on a statement specifying the prospective applicant, the proposed  
140 activity, the site on which such activity is proposed to be conducted and  
141 the fact that an application has been filed with the department. Within  
142 ten days after such statement has been filed, such town clerk shall cause  
143 notice of such filing to be published in a newspaper having a circulation  
144 in the town wherein the activity is to be conducted. The question of the  
145 approval of the conducting of such activity shall be submitted to the

146 electors of such town at a special election called for the purpose to be  
147 held not less than thirty nor more than sixty days after such publication,  
148 in conformity with the provisions of section 9-369, or at a regular town  
149 election if such election is to be held more than sixty but not more than  
150 one hundred twenty days after such publication, such question shall be  
151 so submitted and the vote shall be taken in the manner prescribed by  
152 said section 9-369. The town clerk shall notify the department of the  
153 results of such election. The disapproval of the conducting of such  
154 activity by a majority of those voting on the question shall be a bar to  
155 the granting of a license to such applicant to conduct such activity at  
156 such location. All costs incurred by a municipality in connection with  
157 such referendum shall be paid to said municipality by the person or  
158 business organization filing such application for such license. The  
159 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any licensee authorized  
160 to operate the off-track betting system with respect to any off-track  
161 betting facility approved prior to June 25, 1993.

162 (b) No licensee may conduct any horse racing or jai alai event on any  
163 Sunday without the prior approval of the legislative body of the town  
164 in which the event is scheduled to take place.

165 (c) No licensee authorized to operate the off-track betting system may  
166 conduct any off-track pari-mutuel wagering on any racing program on  
167 any Sunday without the prior approval of the legislative body of the  
168 town in which such off-track betting facility is located.

169 [(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
170 the prior approval of the legislative body only of the town shall be  
171 required in the event the department issues a license pursuant to  
172 subsection (c) of section 12-574c.]

173 Sec. 4. Section 12-575 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
174 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

175 (a) The department may permit at racing events, exhibitions of the  
176 game of jai alai licensed under the provisions of this chapter or at off-  
177 track betting facilities, betting under a pari-mutuel system, so called,

178 including standard pari-mutuel, daily double, exacta, quinella, trifecta,  
179 superfecta, twin trifecta, pick four and pick six betting, and such other  
180 forms of multiple betting as the department may determine.

181 (b) The pari-mutuel system, so called, shall not be used or permitted  
182 at any location other than the race track at which the racing event is  
183 licensed to be conducted or the fronton at which the game of jai alai is  
184 licensed to be played or at an off-track betting facility operated by the  
185 department or by a licensee authorized to operate the off-track betting  
186 system. A computerized electronic totalizator system, approved by the  
187 commissioner, shall be used to conduct pari-mutuel wagering at each  
188 racing or jai alai event. A computerized electronic totalizator system  
189 approved by the commissioner and, where authorized by subsection (b)  
190 of section 12-571a, and approved by the commissioner, a simulcast  
191 system shall be used to conduct pari-mutuel wagering and simulcasting  
192 of off-track betting race programs at off-track betting facilities. The  
193 commissioner may require any licensee to submit information  
194 concerning the daily operation of such totalizator or simulcast system  
195 which [he] the commissioner deems necessary for the effective  
196 administration of this chapter, including records of all wagering  
197 transactions, in such form and manner as [he shall prescribe] the  
198 commissioner prescribes.

199 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, each  
200 licensee conducting horse racing events under the pari-mutuel system  
201 shall distribute all sums deposited in any pari-mutuel program to the  
202 holders of winning tickets therein, less seventeen per cent of the total  
203 deposits plus the breakage to the dime of the amount so retained [;] and  
204 each licensee conducting jai alai events shall distribute all sums  
205 deposited in any pari-mutuel program to the holders of winning tickets  
206 therein, less a maximum of eighteen per cent of the deposits in the win,  
207 place or show pools and less a maximum of twenty-three per cent of the  
208 deposits in all other pools plus the breakage to the dime of the amount  
209 so retained. [; each licensee conducting dog racing events shall  
210 distribute all sums deposited in any pari-mutuel program to the holders  
211 of winning tickets therein, less a maximum of nineteen per cent of the

212 deposits in the win, place or show pools and less a maximum of twenty-  
 213 seven per cent of the deposits in all other pools plus the breakage to the  
 214 dime of the amount so retained, or, shall distribute all sums deposited  
 215 in all of its pari-mutuel programs conducted on any day to the holders  
 216 of winning tickets therein less twenty per cent of the total deposits plus  
 217 the breakage to the dime of the amount so retained, provided on and  
 218 after July 1, 1992, each licensee conducting dog racing events on July 5,  
 219 1991, shall allocate four per cent of all sums deposited in any pari-  
 220 mutuel program to purses, one-quarter of one per cent to capital  
 221 expenditures for alterations, additions, replacement changes,  
 222 improvements or major repairs to or upon the property owned or leased  
 223 by any such licensee and used for such racing events, and one-quarter  
 224 of one per cent to promotional marketing, to reduce the costs of  
 225 admission, programs, parking and concessions and to offer  
 226 entertainment and giveaways. Each licensee conducting dog racing  
 227 events shall, on an annual basis, submit to the department certified  
 228 financial statements verifying the use of such allocations for purses,  
 229 capital improvements and promotional marketing.]

230 (2) Each licensee conducting horse racing or jai alai events may carry  
 231 over all or a portion of the sums deposited in any pari-mutuel program,  
 232 less the amount retained as herein provided, in the twin trifecta, pick  
 233 four or pick six pari-mutuel pool to another pool, including a pool in a  
 234 succeeding performance.

235 (d) Each licensee conducting horse racing events under the pari-  
 236 mutuel system shall pay to the state, and there is hereby imposed: (1) A  
 237 tax on the total money wagered in the pari-mutuel pool on each [and  
 238 every] day the licensee conducts racing events, pursuant to the  
 239 following schedule:

T1	Total Wagered	Tax
T2	0 to \$100,001	3.25% on the entire pool
T3	\$100,001 to \$200,001	3.75% on the entire pool
T4	\$200,001 to \$300,001	4.25% on the entire pool
T5	\$300,001 to \$400,001	4.75% on the entire pool



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T6	\$400,001 to \$500,001	5.25% on the entire pool
T7	\$500,001 to \$600,001	5.75% on the entire pool
T8	\$600,001 to \$700,001	6.25% on the entire pool
T9	\$700,001 to \$800,001	6.75% on the entire pool
T10	\$800,001 to \$900,001	7.25% on the entire pool
T11	\$900,001 to \$1,000,001	7.75% on the entire pool
T12	\$1,000,001 and over	8.75% on the entire pool

240 and (2) a tax equal to one-half of the breakage to the dime resulting from  
241 such wagering. The commissioner shall by regulation adopted in  
242 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 designate the percentage  
243 of the difference between the seventeen per cent specified in subsection  
244 (c) of this section and the tax specified in this subsection, which shall be  
245 allocated as prize or purse money for the horses racing at each facility.

246 [(e) Each licensee conducting dog racing events under the pari-  
247 mutuel system shall pay to the state, and there is hereby imposed: (1)  
248 (A) A tax at the rate of two per cent on the total money wagered in the  
249 pari-mutuel pool on each and every day the licensee conducts racing  
250 events or (B) on or after July 1, 1993, in the case of any licensee licensed  
251 prior to July 5, 1991, (i) a tax at the rate of two per cent on any amount  
252 up to and including fifty million dollars of the total money wagered in  
253 the pari-mutuel pool in any state fiscal year during which a licensee  
254 licensed prior to July 5, 1991, conducts racing events, (ii) a tax at the rate  
255 of three per cent on any amount in excess of fifty million dollars and up  
256 to and including eighty million dollars of the total money wagered in  
257 the pari-mutuel pool in any state fiscal year during which a licensee  
258 licensed prior to July 5, 1991, conducts racing events, and (iii) a tax at  
259 the rate of four per cent on any amount in excess of eighty million  
260 dollars of the total money wagered in the pari-mutuel pool in any state  
261 fiscal year during which a licensee licensed prior to July 5, 1991,  
262 conducts racing events, and (2) a tax equal to one-half of the breakage  
263 to the dime resulting from such wagering.]

264 [(f)] (e) Each licensee operating a fronton at which the game of jai alai  
265 is licensed to be played under the pari-mutuel system shall pay to the

266 state and there is hereby imposed: (1) (A) A tax at the rate of two per  
267 cent on any amount up to and including fifty million dollars of the total  
268 money wagered on such games, (B) a tax at the rate of three per cent of  
269 any amount in excess of fifty million dollars and up to and including  
270 eighty million dollars of the total money wagered on such games, and  
271 (C) a tax at the rate of four per cent on any amount in excess of eighty  
272 million dollars of the total money wagered on such games, and (2) a tax  
273 equal to one-half of the breakage to the dime resulting from such  
274 wagering.

275 [(g)] (f) The licensee authorized to operate the system of off-track  
276 betting under the pari-mutuel system shall pay to the state and there is  
277 hereby imposed: (1) A tax at the rate of three and one-half per cent on  
278 the total money wagered in the pari-mutuel pool on each [and every]  
279 day the licensee broadcasts racing events, and (2) a tax equal to one-half  
280 of the breakage to the dime resulting from such wagering.

281 [(h)] (g) The commissioner shall assess and collect the taxes imposed  
282 by this chapter under such regulations as [he] the commissioner may  
283 prescribe, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. All taxes  
284 hereby imposed shall be due and payable by the close of the next  
285 banking day after each day's racing or jai alai exhibition. If any such tax  
286 is not paid when due, the commissioner shall impose a delinquency  
287 assessment upon the licensee in the amount of ten per cent of such tax  
288 or ten dollars, whichever amount is greater, plus interest at the rate of  
289 one and one-half per cent of the unpaid principal of such tax for each  
290 month or fraction of a month from the date such tax is due to the date of  
291 payment. Subject to the provisions of section 12-3a, the commissioner  
292 may waive all or part of the penalties provided under this subsection  
293 when it is proven to [his] the commissioner's satisfaction that the failure  
294 to pay such tax within the time required was due to reasonable cause  
295 and was not intentional or due to neglect. Failure to pay any such  
296 delinquent tax upon demand may be considered by the commissioner  
297 as cause for revocation of license.

298 [(i)] (h) The commissioner shall devise a system of accounting and

299 shall supervise betting at such track, fronton or off-track betting facility  
300 in such manner that the rights of the state are protected and shall collect  
301 all fees and licenses under such regulations as [he] the commissioner  
302 shall prescribe, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

303 [(j)] (i) The amount of unclaimed moneys, as determined by the  
304 commissioner, held by any licensee other than by licensees authorized  
305 to operate a jai alai fronton [, dog race track] or the off-track betting  
306 system on account of outstanding and uncashed winning tickets, shall  
307 be due and payable to the commissioner, for deposit in the General Fund  
308 of the state, at the expiration of one year after the close of the meeting  
309 during which such tickets were issued. If any such unclaimed moneys  
310 are not paid when due, the commissioner shall impose a delinquency  
311 assessment upon the licensee in the amount of ten per cent of such  
312 moneys or ten dollars, whichever amount is greater, plus interest at the  
313 rate of one and one-half per cent of the unpaid principal of such moneys  
314 for each month or fraction of a month from the date such moneys are  
315 due to the date of payment. Subject to the provisions of section 12-3a,  
316 the commissioner may waive all or part of the penalties provided under  
317 this subsection when it is proven to [his] the commissioner's satisfaction  
318 that the failure to pay such moneys to the state within the time required  
319 was due to reasonable cause and was not intentional or due to neglect.

320 [(k)] (j) The commissioner may authorize deputies and the  
321 Commissioner of Revenue Services or his or her agents are authorized  
322 to enter upon the premises at any horse racing event, jai alai exhibition  
323 or off-track betting race event for the purpose of inspecting books and  
324 records, supervising and examining cashiers, ticket sellers, pool sellers  
325 and other persons handling money at said event and such other  
326 supervision as may be necessary for the maintenance of order at such  
327 event.

328 [(l)] (k) (1) The commissioner shall pay each municipality in which a  
329 horse race track is located, one-quarter of one per cent of the total money  
330 wagered on horse racing events at such race track, except the  
331 commissioner shall pay each such municipality having a population in

332 excess of fifty thousand one per cent of the total money wagered at such  
333 horse racing events in such municipality. The commissioner shall pay  
334 each municipality in which a jai alai fronton [or dog race track] is located  
335 one-half of one per cent of the total money wagered on jai alai games [or  
336 dog racing events] at such fronton, [or dog race track,] except the  
337 commissioner shall pay each such municipality having a population in  
338 excess of fifty thousand one per cent of the total money wagered on jai  
339 alai games [or dog racing events] at such fronton [or dog race track]  
340 located in such municipality. The commissioner shall pay each  
341 municipality in which an off-track betting facility is located one and  
342 three-fifths per cent of the total money wagered in such facility less  
343 amounts paid as refunds or for cancellations. The commissioner shall  
344 pay to both the city of New Haven and the town of Windsor Locks an  
345 additional one-half of one per cent of the total money wagered less any  
346 amount paid as a refund or a cancellation in any facility equipped with  
347 screens for simulcasting after October 1, 1997, located within a fifteen-  
348 mile radius of facilities in New Haven and Windsor Locks. Payment  
349 shall be made not less than four times a year and not more than twelve  
350 times a year as determined by the commissioner, and shall be made  
351 from the tax imposed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for horse  
352 racing, subsection (e) of this section [for dog racing, subsection (f) of this  
353 section] for jai alai games and subsection [(g)] (f) of this section for off-  
354 track betting. (2) [If, for any calendar year after the surrender of a license  
355 to conduct jai alai events by any person or business organization  
356 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 12-574c and prior to the opening of  
357 any dog race track by such person or business organization, any other  
358 person or business organization licensed to conduct jai alai events is  
359 authorized to conduct a number of performances greater than the  
360 number authorized for such licensee in the previous calendar year, the  
361 commissioner shall pay the municipality in which the jai alai fronton for  
362 which such license was surrendered was located, rather than the  
363 municipality in which the jai alai fronton conducting the increased  
364 performances is located, one-half of one per cent of the total money  
365 wagered on jai alai games for such increased performances at the  
366 fronton which conducted the additional performances, except the

367 commissioner shall pay each such municipality having a population in  
368 excess of fifty thousand one per cent of the total money wagered on jai  
369 alai games for such increased performances at such fronton. (3) During  
370 any state fiscal year ending on or after June 30, 1993, the commissioner  
371 shall pay each municipality in which a dog race track was operating  
372 prior to July 5, 1991, one per cent of the total money wagered on dog  
373 racing events at such dog race track. (4) During the state fiscal year  
374 ending June 30, 2001, each municipality in which a dog race track was  
375 operating prior to July 5, 1991, shall pay the Northeast Connecticut  
376 Economic Alliance, Inc. two-tenths of one per cent of the total money  
377 wagered on dog racing events at any dog race track operating prior to  
378 July 5, 1991. (5)] In the event a licensee incurs a loss from the operation  
379 of a pari-mutuel facility, as determined by the commissioner, the  
380 legislative body of the city or town in which such facility is located may  
381 direct the commissioner to credit or rebate all or a part of the revenue  
382 otherwise due to the municipality back to the facility. In no case shall  
383 such credit and such reimbursement exceed the amount of the licensee's  
384 loss, and in no fiscal year shall these provisions affect the total fees paid  
385 to the state by the authorized operator of the off-track betting system on  
386 its off-track betting activities.

387 Sec. 5. Section 12-578 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
388 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

389 (a) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
390 provisions of chapter 54, governing registration and the issuance and  
391 annual renewal of licenses and payment of annual nonrefundable  
392 application fees for the same in accordance with the following schedule:

393 (1) Registration: (A) Stable name, one hundred dollars; (B)  
394 partnership name, one hundred dollars; and (C) colors, twenty dollars;  
395 [; (D) kennel name, one hundred dollars.]

396 (2) Licenses: (A) Owner, one hundred dollars; (B) trainer, one  
397 hundred dollars; (C) assistant trainer, one hundred dollars; (D) jockey,  
398 forty dollars; (E) jockey agent, for each jockey, one hundred dollars; (F)  
399 stable employees, including exercise boy, groom, stable foreman, hot

400 walker, outrider, twenty dollars; (G) veterinarian, one hundred dollars;  
401 (H) jockey apprentice, forty dollars; (I) driver, one hundred dollars; (J)  
402 valet, twenty dollars; (K) blacksmith, twenty dollars; (L) plater, twenty  
403 dollars; (M) concessionaire, for each concession, two hundred fifty  
404 dollars; (N) concessionaire affiliate, for each concession of the  
405 concessionaire, two hundred fifty dollars; (O) concession employees,  
406 twenty dollars; (P) jai alai players, one hundred dollars; (Q) officials and  
407 supervisors, one hundred dollars; (R) pari-mutuel employees, forty  
408 dollars; (S) other personnel engaged in activities regulated under this  
409 chapter, twenty dollars; (T) vendor, for each contract, two hundred fifty  
410 dollars; (U) totalizator, for each contract, two hundred fifty dollars; (V)  
411 vendor and totalizator affiliates, for each contract of the vendor or  
412 totalizator, two hundred fifty dollars; (W) gaming employee, forty  
413 dollars; (X) nongaming vendor, two hundred fifty dollars; (Y) gaming  
414 services, five hundred dollars; and (Z) gaming affiliate, two hundred  
415 fifty dollars. For the purposes of this subdivision, "concessionaire  
416 affiliate" means a business organization, other than a shareholder in a  
417 publicly traded corporation, that may exercise control in or over a  
418 concessionaire; and "concessionaire" means any individual or business  
419 organization granted the right to operate an activity at [a dog race track  
420 or] an off-track betting facility for the purpose of making a profit that  
421 receives or, in the exercise of reasonable business judgment, can be  
422 expected to receive more than twenty-five thousand dollars or twenty-  
423 five per cent of its gross annual receipts from such activity at such [track  
424 or] facility.

425 (b) The commissioner shall require each applicant for a license under  
426 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section to submit to state and  
427 national criminal history records checks before such license is issued.  
428 The criminal history records checks required pursuant to this subsection  
429 shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.

430 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 12-572 of the general statutes is  
431 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
432 *1, 2023*):

433 (a) The commissioner may establish or authorize the establishment of  
434 such off-track betting facilities throughout the state for the purpose of  
435 receiving moneys wagered on the results of races or jai alai games as [he  
436 shall deem] the commissioner deems will serve the convenience of the  
437 public and provide maximum economy and efficiency of operation,  
438 provided the establishment of such a facility in any municipality for the  
439 purpose of receiving moneys on the results of races or jai alai games  
440 shall be subject to the approval of the legislative body of such  
441 municipality which shall be given only after a public hearing on the  
442 same. Until the effective date of transfer of ownership of the off-track  
443 betting system, moneys received at such facilities shall be deposited in  
444 a betting fund from which daily payments, in such amount as the  
445 commissioner deems suitable, shall be made. If an operator of an off-  
446 track betting facility intends to conduct wagering on [dog racing events  
447 or] jai alai games, such operator (1) shall conduct wagering on [dog  
448 racing events or] jai alai games conducted by any association licensee  
449 which offers such [racing events or] games for off-track betting,  
450 provided such operator obtains the written consent of such licensee, and  
451 (2) may conduct wagering on out-of-state [dog racing events or] jai alai  
452 games when no such association licensee is conducting such [racing  
453 events or] games, provided such operator has complied with the  
454 provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection. No operator of an off-  
455 track betting facility shall conduct wagering on any [dog racing event  
456 or] jai alai game if such [racing event or] game is conducted within forty  
457 miles of such facility unless such operator has obtained the written  
458 consent of the licensee conducting such [racing event or] game. An  
459 operator of an off-track betting facility may conduct wagering on out-  
460 of-state dog racing events.

461 Sec. 7. Section 12-559 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
462 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

463 The commissioner may employ stewards for thoroughbred racing,  
464 judges for harness racing [, greyhound racing] and jai alai, and  
465 veterinarians who shall be exempt from classified service, and may  
466 employ, subject to the provisions of chapter 67, such other employees as

467 may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. The  
468 commissioner shall require such persons to submit to state and national  
469 criminal history records checks before being employed. The criminal  
470 history records checks required pursuant to this section shall be  
471 conducted in accordance with section 29-17a. All persons employed  
472 pursuant to this section, with the exception of any steward, judge or  
473 veterinarian, shall be residents of the state at the time of and during the  
474 full term of their employment.

475 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 17a-713 of the general statutes is  
476 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
477 *1, 2023*):

478 (b) The program established by subsection (a) of this section shall be  
479 funded by: (1) Imposition of a fee of one hundred thirty-five dollars on  
480 each association license, for each performance of jai alai [or dog racing]  
481 conducted under the provisions of chapter 226, provided no such  
482 licensee shall contribute more than forty-five thousand dollars in any  
483 one year; (2) imposition of a fee of twenty-five dollars for each  
484 teletheater performance on each operator of a teletheater facility; (3) the  
485 amount received from the Connecticut Lottery Corporation pursuant to  
486 section 12-818; and (4) any amount received pursuant to section 12-871  
487 from the holder of a master wagering license under section 12-852. The  
488 Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall collect the fee from each  
489 association licensee or such operator on a monthly basis. The receipts  
490 shall be deposited in the General Fund and credited to a separate,  
491 nonlapsing chronic gamblers treatment and rehabilitation account  
492 which shall be established by the Comptroller. All moneys in the  
493 account are deemed to be appropriated and shall be expended for the  
494 purposes established in subsection (a) of this section.

495 Sec. 9. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 19a-342 of the  
496 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
497 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

498 (b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 31-40q, no person  
499 shall smoke: (A) In any area of a building or portion of a building,



500 owned and operated or leased and operated by the state or any political  
501 subdivision of the state; (B) in any area of a health care institution,  
502 including, but not limited to, a psychiatric facility; (C) in any area of a  
503 retail establishment accessed by the general public; (D) in any  
504 restaurant; (E) in any area of an establishment with a permit issued for  
505 the sale of alcoholic liquor pursuant to section 30-20a, 30-21, 30-21b, 30-  
506 22, 30-22c, 30-28, 30-28a, 30-33a, 30-33b, 30-35a, 30-37a, 30-37e or 30-37f,  
507 in any area of an establishment with a permit for the sale of alcoholic  
508 liquor pursuant to section 30-22aa issued after May 1, 2003, and, on and  
509 after April 1, 2004, in any area of an establishment with a permit issued  
510 for the sale of alcoholic liquor pursuant to section 30-22a or 30-26; (F) in  
511 any area of a school building or on the grounds of such school; (G)  
512 within a child care facility or on the grounds of such child care facility,  
513 except, if the child care facility is a family child care home, as defined in  
514 section 19a-77, such smoking is prohibited only when a child enrolled  
515 in such home is present during customary business hours; (H) in any  
516 passenger elevator; (I) in any area of a dormitory in any public or private  
517 institution of higher education; (J) in any area of [a dog race track or] a  
518 facility equipped with screens for the simulcasting of off-track betting  
519 race programs or jai alai games; (K) in any room offered as an  
520 accommodation to guests by the operator of a hotel, motel or similar  
521 lodging; (L) in any area of a correctional facility or halfway house; or  
522 (M) in any area of a platform or a shelter at a rail, busway or bus station,  
523 owned and operated or leased and operated by the state or any political  
524 subdivision of the state. For purposes of this subsection, "restaurant"  
525 means space, in a suitable and permanent building, kept, used,  
526 maintained, advertised and held out to the public to be a place where  
527 meals are regularly served to the public, "school" has the same meaning  
528 as provided in section 10-154a and "child care facility" has the same  
529 meaning as provided in section 19a-342a, as amended by this act.

530 Sec. 10. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 19a-342a of the  
531 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
532 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

533 (b) (1) No person shall use an electronic nicotine or cannabis delivery

534 system or vapor product: (A) In any area of a building or portion of a  
535 building owned and operated or leased and operated by the state or any  
536 political subdivision of the state; (B) in any area of a health care  
537 institution, including, but not limited to, a psychiatric facility; (C) in any  
538 area of a retail establishment accessed by the public; (D) in any  
539 restaurant; (E) in any area of an establishment with a permit issued for  
540 the sale of alcoholic liquor pursuant to section 30-20a, 30-21, 30-21b, 30-  
541 22, 30-22a, 30-22c, 30-26, 30-28, 30-28a, 30-33a, 30-33b, 30-35a, 30-37a, 30-  
542 37e or 30-37f, in any area of establishment with a permit issued for the  
543 sale of alcoholic liquor pursuant to section 30-22aa issued after May 1,  
544 2003; (F) in any area of a school building or on the grounds of such  
545 school; (G) within a child care facility or on the grounds of such child  
546 care facility, except, if the child care facility is a family child care home  
547 as defined in section 19a-77, such use is prohibited only when a child  
548 enrolled in such home is present during customary business hours; (H)  
549 in any passenger elevator; (I) in any area of a dormitory in any public or  
550 private institution of higher education; (J) in any area of [a dog race track  
551 or] a facility equipped with screens for the simulcasting of off-track  
552 betting race programs or jai alai games; (K) in any room offered as an  
553 accommodation to guests by the operator of a hotel, motel or similar  
554 lodging; (L) in any area of a correctional facility, halfway house or  
555 residential facility funded by the Judicial Branch; or (M) in any area of a  
556 platform or a shelter at a rail, busway or bus station, owned and  
557 operated or leased and operated by the state or any political subdivision  
558 of the state. For purposes of this subsection, "restaurant" means space,  
559 in a suitable and permanent building, kept, used, maintained,  
560 advertised and held out to the public to be a place where meals are  
561 regularly served to the public, and "school" has the same meaning as  
562 provided in section 10-154a.

563       Sec. 11. Section 12-574d of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
564 *October 1, 2023*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	12-574(i) to (s)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	12-574c
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	12-574a
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	12-575
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	12-578
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	12-572(a)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	12-559
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	17a-713(b)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	19a-342(b)(1)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	19a-342a(b)(1)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	Repealer section

**GL**      *Joint Favorable*

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*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill results in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities as greyhound racing has not occurred in Connecticut since 2006.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6615*****AN ACT CONCERNING DOG RACING.*****SUMMARY**

This bill repeals the statutes authorizing dog tracks and dog racing in Connecticut, but explicitly allows off-track betting 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 racetracks. It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

***BACKGROUND******Dog Racing***

There has not been an active dog racetrack 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 racetrack 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**

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23    Nay 0    (03/02/2023)