

# Senate Ways and Means Committee

*Sonja Caldwell 271-2117*

**SB 206-FN**, relative to wagering on historic horse racing.

**Hearing Date:** February 15, 2017

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Sanborn, Giuda, Daniels, D'Allesandro and Feltes

**Members of the Committee Absent:** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill allows wagering on historic horse racing.

**Sponsors:**

Sen. French

Sen. Innis

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**Who supports the bill:** Sen. Innis, Rick Newman (Exacta Systems, The River Casino), Greg Barber (The River Casino)

**Who opposes the bill:** No one

**Who is neutral on the bill:** No one

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Sen. French** this bill is very necessary to sustain the viability of the tracks we have left in NH. Fewer people are going. The bill will authorize simulcast facilities and charitable gaming facilities to offer historic gaming, which is betting on races that have already been run.

**Rick Newman** – represents Exacta Systems, which is a manufacturer of historic racing terminals. He submitted letters from other entities. Historical racing is currently available in 4 states. It's a trend moving across country. The way it works is the player is given data on particular races available to wager on such as the winning percentage of the jockey or trainer but you don't know the race or exact date of the race until you've made your wager. These are races that actually took place. The concept merges new technology with the old sport of horse racing. It brings in new customers, increases revenue for facilities and the state.

In 2006, the total wagers on parimutuel wagering in NH were 211 million dollars. In the current fiscal year based on numbers thus far, it looks like it will be about 40 million dollars for the whole year and that includes Rockingham up through August when they closed. There has been an increase at Seabrook but it hasn't totally offset the closing of Rockingham. Seabrook is probably going to go away sooner or later and then the only place that would be left that offers parimutuel wagering is a place in Cheshire County. If this bill passes, Lakes Region Casino would bring back simulcast

wagering. Belmont was a parimutuel wagering facility from the 1970s until 2010. This bill would also allow historical racing at charitable facilities. A 1.5% tax is imposed. At charitable facilities, the charity would get 35% and the state would get the rest. This would create jobs. The senate passed historic racing in 2010, but the house didn't go along with it.

**Sen. Sanborn** asked how one can win this game and what the odds are.

**Mr. Newman** said parimutuel wagering is different than casino backed games. In blackjack, it's possible that nobody ever wins. In parimutuel wagering, someone always wins. If 50 people are in a building playing these terminals, the players look at the handicap information and make their pick. They are looking at the same information but it might not be on the same race. It's pooled money. If a player chooses correctly, they're going to get a piece of that pool. 91% of money wagered goes into the pool and is distributed to winners.

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