

**STATE OF MAINE
MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION**

In re: 2024-2025 BIENNIAL BUDGET)
PURSUANT TO 8 M.R.S. § 267) **DECISION AND ORDER**
)

INTRODUCTION

On August 25, 2022, the Maine State Harness Racing Commission (“Commission”) held a public hearing pursuant to 8 M.R.S. § 267(1) and Chapter 21 of the Maine State Harness Racing Commission Rules to receive testimony regarding the recommended 2024-2025 biennial budget.

A quorum of the Commission was present during all stages of the proceedings. Chair Harry Center II, Barry Norris, Don Marean, Patricia Varnum, and Diane Dunn participated and voted as Commission members. The July 19, 2022 Notice of Hearing that was provided to interested parties via email and posted on the MHRC’s website was admitted without objection as Exhibit 1. Notice of Hearing was provided to all persons who receive distributions from the funds established by §§ 281, 298, 299, 300, and Title 7 § 91.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

Shane Bacon, Executive Director of the Commission, offered into evidence the Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 which was admitted without objection as Exhibit 2. Mr. Bacon and Joy Bonenfant, Resource Administrator for the Commission, both testified that this budget is in many ways similar to prior years’ budgets. Upon the Commission’s questioning, Ms. Bonenfant explained that the General Operations line for Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2024 and 2025 was less than FY 2022 due to a change in promotional marketing. Additionally, Ms. Bonenfant explained that part of the increase for the line of Professional Services, Not by State, includes covering the cost to pay for additional vet tech services. Mr. Bacon explained that the figures in

Exhibit 2 are projections; the Commission was advised that, should it be necessary, it could conduct additional hearings in the future regarding revisions to the budget. The Commission accepted Mr. Bacon's and Ms. Bonenfant's testimony and there was no opposing testimony.

CONCLUSIONS AND ORDER

Based on the testimonial and documentary evidence in the record, the Commission concludes that the 2024-2025 Biennial Budget provides for the conduct of core activities necessary to carry out Maine's harness racing laws. The Commission recommends that the 2024-2025 Biennial Budget remain unchanged at this time.

RECORD VOTE

After motion made and seconded, the Commissioners voted unanimously, 5-0, that the 2024-2025 Biennial Budget provides for the conduct of core activities necessary to carry out Maine's harness racing laws.

After motion made and seconded, the Commissioners voted unanimously, 5-0, to recommend to the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry that the 2024-2025 Biennial Budget be unchanged at this time.

Dated: 9-2-2022



Harry Center II, Chair
Maine State Harness Racing Commission