

F I N A L R E P O R T

PARIMUTUEL RACING STUDY COMMITTEE

June, 1987

The Parimutuel Racing Study Committee was established by the Legislative Council to conduct a study during the 1986 interim as to whether a property tax exemption should be allowed for parimutuel racing facilities and to review the issue of providing preferences for Iowa-bred dogs.

Members serving on the Parimutuel Racing Study Committee were:

Senator Joe J. Welsh, Co-chairperson
Representative Emil S. Pavich, Co-chairperson
Senator Jack W. Hester
Senator Emil J. Husak
Senator Berl E. Priebe
Senator Daile L. Tieden
Representative William H. Harbor
Representative Thomas J. Jochum
Representative Janet Metcalf
Representative Dennis L. Renaud

The Parimutuel Racing Study Committee was authorized two meetings and these meetings were held on November 7, 1986 and December 8, 1986. It was agreed that a third meeting would be requested but upon the convening of the Seventy-second General Assembly, 1987 Session, the Co-chairpersons agreed that the third meeting would not be requested or scheduled.

At its first meeting, the Study Committee received testimony from representatives of the Iowa Greyhound Association, the State Racing Commission, the Iowa West Racing Association, the Dubuque Greyhound Park, and the contract kennel operators. Representatives of the Iowa Greyhound Association suggested that more needs to be done for local breeders. It is not right to allow track operators to require local breeders to contract their animals through contract kennels at the track. Local breeders receive less money and this means fewer dollars remain in the state. It was also noted that local breeders can train the dogs and outside the kennels, the dogs are less susceptible to diseases. The Iowa Greyhound Association recommended that legislation be passed to require a minimum return on winnings and assurance that Iowa-bred dogs will receive more winnings.

The State Racing Commission representatives argued that the present system encourages better Iowa-bred dogs, allows for greater out-of-state

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exposure, and provides for better regulation of the dogs used for racing. Testimony was also received from track operators and kennel operators.

The afternoon session was devoted to the property tax issue. The track operators argued that the general assembly intended that the wagering tax was in lieu of property taxes. Several groups appeared to testify that the track facilities should not be exempt from property taxes. It was argued that the existence of these facilities made a greater demand on local governmental services and required additional local governmental services.

At its second meeting, the Parimutuel Racing Study Committee received additional testimony from the State Racing Commission and the Iowa Greyhound Association. The Study Committee also received testimony from the Division of Criminal Investigation of the Department of Public Safety relating to the law enforcement responsibilities arising from the legalization of parimutuel racing in the state.

The Study Committee agreed that an additional meeting be held. However, this meeting was not scheduled and the Study Committee made no recommendations to the Legislative Council or the Seventy-second General Assembly, 1987 Session.

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