

SENATE WAGERING, TOURISM AND HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1617

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 21, 2004

The Senate Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate No. 1617.

As amended by the committee, this bill extends workers' compensation coverage purchased by the New Jersey Horse Racing Injury Compensation Board to thoroughbred horse exercise riders while those riders are working at horse racetracks in this State, who are licensed by the New Jersey Racing Commission and have had appropriate State and federal taxes withheld from their wages.

Under current law, only jockeys, jockey apprentices and drivers (and trainers and their employees in rare circumstances) are covered under the New Jersey Horse Racing Injury Compensation Board. The coverage under the board is paid for through a 3% assessment on prize money paid to horse owners, and an additional assessment on horse owners if necessary. There is a surplus in the thoroughbred half of the fund sufficient to provide coverage to thoroughbred exercise riders, and after jockeys and jockey apprentices, exercise riders have the next most hazardous duties.

The committee adopted an amendment to provide that exercise riders will be covered only if appropriate State and federal taxes have been withheld from their wages.

As amended by the committee, this bill is identical to A-2895 (1R).