

ASSEMBLY, No. 2320

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Caputo

SYNOPSIS

Requires New Jersey Racing Commission develop guidelines on postponement of certain events due to severe weather conditions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/3/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning inclement weather during horse races and
2 supplementing P.L.1940, c.17.

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4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. The New Jersey Racing Commission, in consultation with the
8 Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and the
9 Commissioner of the Department of Health, shall promulgate rules
10 and regulations establishing a severe weather and lightning protocol
11 to ensure the well-being and safety of all persons and horses at a
12 racing event. At minimum, the severe weather and lighting protocol
13 shall require the postponement of horse races when inclement
14 weather would pose a danger to the welfare of the drivers, jockeys,
15 or horses.

16 Inclement weather shall be understood as, at a minimum, a
17 condition in which:

18 (1) there is a thunderstorm, tornado, tropical storm, or hurricane
19 watch in effect for the county in which the track is located within
20 one hour of the post and expected end times of the race; or

21 (2) the heat index as defined by the National Oceanic and
22 Atmospheric Administration for the county in which the track is
23 located is above 90 degrees Fahrenheit or is reasonably expected to
24 be above 90 degrees Fahrenheit at any time during the race.

25 The New Jersey Racing Commission shall promulgate rules and
26 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
27 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of
28 this act.

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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32 STATEMENT

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34 This bill requires the New Jersey Racing Commission to
35 promulgate rules and regulations establishing a severe weather and
36 lightning protocol and require the postponement of horse races
37 when inclement weather would pose a danger to the welfare of the
38 drivers, jockeys, or horses.

39 Inclement weather would be understood as, at a minimum, a
40 condition in which:

41 (1) there is a thunderstorm, tornado, tropical storm, or hurricane
42 watch in effect for the county in which the track is located within
43 one hour of the post and expected end times of the race; or

44 (2) the heat index as defined by the National Oceanic and
45 Atmospheric Administration for the county in which the track is
46 located is above 90 degrees Fahrenheit or is reasonably expected to
47 be above 90 degrees Fahrenheit at any time during the race.