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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO SPORTS, RACING, AND ATHLETICS -- DOG RACING IN
BURRILLVILLE, LINCOLN, AND WEST GREENWICH

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, Fellela, Potter, and O'Brien

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 41-3.1-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 41-3.1 entitled "Dog Racing
2 in Burrillville, Lincoln, and West Greenwich" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **41-3.1-3. Regulation of operations.**

4 (a) The division of gaming and athletics licensing is hereby authorized to license dog racing
5 in the towns of Burrillville, Lincoln, and West Greenwich. The operation of a dog track shall be
6 under the division's supervision. The division is hereby authorized to issue rules and regulations
7 for the supervision of the operations, and the regulations are to be issued prior to commencement
8 of licensing hearings.

9 (b) Any license granted under the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to the rules
10 and regulations promulgated by the division and shall be subject to suspension or revocation for
11 any cause that the division shall deem sufficient after giving the licensee a reasonable opportunity
12 for a hearing at which he or she shall have the right to be represented by counsel. If any license is
13 suspended or revoked, the division shall state the reasons for the suspension or revocation and cause
14 an entry of the reasons to be made on the record books of the division.

15 (c) The division of gaming and athletics licensing in the department of business regulation
16 shall be prohibited from licensing dog racing and/or the operation of a dog track upon which dog
17 racing occurs in the town of Lincoln. Any license having been issued and in effect as of the effective
18 date of this section shall be null and void and any licensee shall be prohibited from operating

1 thereunder; provided, however, that the following entities shall be deemed pari-mutuel licensees as
2 defined in § 42-61.2-1 et seq. and licensees as defined in § 41-11-1 et seq.: (1) Any entity having
3 been issued a license to operate a dog track prior to December 31, 2008; and (2) Any entity having
4 been issued a license to operate a dog track prior to December 31, 2008, that after that date is
5 reorganized under a confirmed plan of reorganization pursuant to chapter 11 of title 11 of the United
6 States Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. §§ 101 — 1532); and provided, further, that in the case of a
7 reorganized licensee under clause (2), its application for a facility permit license is approved and
8 issued by the department of business regulation in the event of a proposed change in control of the
9 entity. Nothing herein shall limit the ability of the department of business regulation, in connection
10 with a proposed change in control, to investigate and subject to the regulatory due diligence process,
11 any holder of an ownership interest regardless of percentage of ownership held.

12 [\(d\) Notwithstanding any provision of the general laws to the contrary, effective January 1,](#)
13 [2027, no person may wager money or any other thing of value on the outcome of a greyhound race](#)
14 [or other dog race, or accept or facilitate such wagering, regardless of the location at which the race](#)
15 [takes place.](#)

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO SPORTS, RACING, AND ATHLETICS -- DOG RACING IN
BURRILLVILLE, LINCOLN, AND WEST GREENWICH

1 This act would prevent anyone from wagering money or any other thing of value on the
2 outcome of a greyhound race or other dog race, or accept or facilitate such wagering, regardless of
3 the location at which the race takes place, effective January 1, 2027.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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