

## CHAPTER 32

AN ACT reconstituting the membership of the New Jersey Racing Commission and amending P.L.1940, c.17 (5:5-22 et seq.).

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

1. Section 2 of P.L.1940, c.17 (C.5:5-23) is amended to read as follows:

C.5:5-23 Membership of New Jersey Racing Commission.

2. The commission shall consist of nine members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and not more than five of whom shall be of the same political party, and one of whom shall be designated by the Governor to be the chairman of the commission. Each commissioner, at the time of appointment and qualification, shall: (1) be a resident of the State of New Jersey; (2) have resided in the State for a period of at least seven years next preceding appointment and qualification; and (3) be a qualified voter therein and not less than 30 years of age.

At least three commissioners shall be residents of South Jersey, which, for the purposes of this section, shall consist of the counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Ocean, and Salem.

At least one commissioner shall be a resident of Monmouth county.

Two commissioners shall be persons with knowledge of thoroughbred horses, and shall be recommended for nomination by the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, not more than one of whom shall be from the same political party. Two commissioners shall be persons with knowledge of standardbred horses and shall be recommended for nomination by the Standardbred Breeders' and Owners' Association of New Jersey, not more than one of whom shall be from the same political party. No commissioner shall breed a horse in New Jersey or hold a license to train or race a horse in New Jersey.

Each commissioner shall hold office for a term of six years and until a successor has been appointed and qualified. The term of office of each commissioner shall commence on confirmation after appointment. Upon the expiration of the term of each commissioner, the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a successor, to hold office for a term of six years and until his or her successor has been appointed and qualified. The successor of a commissioner appointed upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association or the Standardbred Breeders' and Owners' Association of New Jersey shall be recommended for nomination by that Association. Any vacancy in the commission shall be filled for the unexpired term. Each commissioner shall be eligible for reappointment in the discretion of the Governor.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, the members of the New Jersey Racing Commission serving on the effective date of this act are terminated as of that effective date and the resulting vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired terms in the manner provided by section 2 of P.L.1940, c.17 (C.5:5-23). A member terminated pursuant to this section shall holdover in office until a successor is appointed and qualified and shall be eligible for reappointment at the discretion of the Governor.

The Governor shall establish a task force to study the issues contributing to the current status of horseracing in this state.

3. This act shall take effect on the 60th day following enactment.

Approved March 24, 2003.