

**2015 Annual Report**  
**New York State Senate Committee on**  
**Racing, Gaming and Wagering**



**Senator John J. Bonacic, Chairman**

**Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., Ranking**  
**Minority Member**

January 6, 2016

Senator John Flanagan  
Temporary President and Majority Leader  
Room 339, State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12247

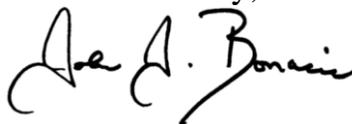
Dear Majority Temporary President Flanagan:

As Chairman of the New York State Senate Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering, I am pleased to present to you the Committee's 2015 Annual Report.

The attached report details the New York State Senate Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee's activities over the past year. I would like to thank the Ranking Minority Member, Senator Joseph Addabbo, for his hard work and attentiveness to this committee. I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their participation and commitment.

I look forward to working with the members of New York State Senate's Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering to ensure that we continue to move in a positive, productive direction in 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Bonacic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

JOHN J. BONACIC  
State Senator

## **Committee Members**

Senator John J. Bonacic, Chairman  
Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr., Ranking Minority Member

Senator Phil Boyle  
Senator David Carlucci  
Senator Leroy Comrie  
Senator Joseph A. Griffo  
Senator George Latimer  
Senator Kathleen A. Marchione  
Senator Michael F. Nozzolio  
Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer  
Senator James Sanders, Jr.

## **Committee Staff**

Andrew Winchell, Committee Director  
Robert Gibbon, Majority Counsel  
Karen Smeaton, Senate Finance Committee

## **Racing, Gaming and Wagering Budget Items for State Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

The Legislature adopted a budget of \$112 million for the Gaming Commission.

The Legislature denied the Executive proposal to reduce the VLT Impact aid of non-Yonkers municipalities from 70% of the 2008-09 level to 55% of 2008-09 level. This would have reduced aid to host municipalities by \$2.1 million

The Legislature appropriated \$100,000 in funding for the operations of the Racing Fan Advisory Council, which was not included in the original Executive proposal.

The Legislature modified the Executive proposal for a one year extension of the NYRA Reorganizational Board, from October 18, 2015 to October 18, 2016, by providing an immediate effective date for the extension.

The Legislature concurred with the Executive proposal for a one year extension of the deadline to receive approval for and to complete, capital projects through the Video Lottery Gaming vendor's capital award program.

The Legislature also concurred with the Executive proposal to include games of chance that contain a limited amount of skill within the definition of the term "video lottery gaming."

The Legislature concurred with the Executive proposal to extend the pari-mutuel tax rates for simulcasting out of state races for one year.

The Legislature added a provision to increase to 2% (from 1%) the amount of purse funds which are retained for the New York Jockey Injury Compensation Fund, Inc. until April 1, 2017.

The Legislature added a provision to extend the current vendor fee rates for a vendor track in Sullivan county for one year until April 1, 2016.

Finally, the Legislature added a provision to ensure off-track advanced deposit wagering (ADW) rate distribution parity for multi-jurisdictional providers who are part of joint affiliations or contractual agreements as of December 31, 2016.

**Summary of Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee Action on Bills**

Total bills referred to the Committee in 2015	38
Total bills reported from Committee in 2015	13
Total number of bills reported by Committee that passed the Senate	10
Total number of bills reported by Committee that became law in 2015	4
Total number of bills reported by Committee that were vetoed in 2015	0

**Bills Reported by Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee that were  
Enacted Into Law in 2015**

**Chapter 236 of the laws of 2015 – S.1866 Bonacic/ A.2132 Pretlow**

This bill extends, for one year, the authorization for the New York State Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association to receive an additional 1.0% of purse monies collected from the race meetings at Aqueduct, Saratoga, and Belmont racetracks, until August 31, 2016.

**Chapter 287 of the laws of 2015 – S.3424 Bonacic/ A.4925 Pretlow**

This bill extends, for one year, the provisions of Chapter 473 of the laws of 2010 relating to the operations of the New York State Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund, until October 28, 2016. These provisions include: the requirement that payments to the fund be made on a quarterly basis; the authorization that sixty-five percent (65%) of revenue can be allotted to breeder awards; the authorization that six percent (6%) of revenue can be used for promoting the breeding and raising of thoroughbred horses; and the authorization that five percent (5%) of revenue can be used for administrative costs.

**Chapter 300 of the laws of 2015 – S.4370 Marchione/ A.6332 Woerner**

This bill allows Saratoga Harness Racing, Inc. to maintain its status as the “regional track” in the Capital Off-Track Betting Region.

**Chapter 443 of the laws of 2015 – S.4934 Ranzenhofer/ A.6946 Pretlow**

This bill removes the statutory prohibition on conducting horse racing and wagering on Palm Sunday.

**Bills Reported by Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee that were  
Vetoed by the Governor in 2015**

None.

**Other Items of Interest to the Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee in  
2015**

On December 21, 2015 the Gaming Commission officially awarded licenses to operate casino gaming facilities to the Lago Resort & Casino, Rivers Casino & Resort at Mohawk Harbor and Montreign Resort Casino.

**Public Hearings of the Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee in 2015**

**To Discuss the Future of Online Poker in New York State**

Van Buren Hearing Room A, Legislative Office Building, 2nd Floor, Albany, New  
York

September 9, 2015  
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**ORDER OF TESTIMONY**

- 1) John A. Pappas – Executive Director, Poker Players Alliance
- 2) James Featherstonhaugh – President, New York Gaming Association
- 3) John McManus – Executive VP and General Counsel, MGM Resorts International
- 4) David Satz – Senior VP of Government Relations & Development, Caesars Entertainment Corporation
- 5) Tom Balance – President, Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa
- 6) Kevin Cochran – Senior Legal Analyst, Gambling Compliance
- 7) Richard Schwartz – President, Rush Street Interactive