

Annual Report 2023



New York State Senate Standing Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering

Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.

Chair



Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore
NYS Senate Majority Leader

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SENATOR
JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.
15TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF NEW YORK
MAJORITY DEPUTY WHIP

CHAIRMAN
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

COMMITTEES
BUDGET AND REVENUE
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
EDUCATION
INSURANCE
RULES
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
STATE-NATIVE AMERICAN RELATIONS

December 21, 2023
NYS Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate Majority Leader
NY State Capitol Building, Room 330
Albany, NY 12247

Re: 2023 Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee Annual Report

Dear Leader Stewart-Cousins,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. I truly appreciate the privilege to Chair the Senate Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee. I am also proud of and thankful for the dedicated, credible work done by the Committee team consisting of the former Committee Director, Shanna Cassidy, along with the legal counsel, Dan Ranellone and Paul McCarthy, who were attentive to improving all aspects of gaming and horse racing in our State, including the related revenue, education funding, jobs and the critical issue of gaming addiction.

The following document is our 2023 Committee Report, summarizing the accomplishments of the Senate Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee.

I also acknowledge professionalism and legislative input of the Ranking Minority Member, Senator James N. Tedisco, and the other Committee members.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Addabbo".

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
New York State Senator
15th District

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

Senator Addabbo, Chairperson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Senator Comrie
Senator Martinez
Senator Sanders
Senator Stavisky
Senator Helming
Senator Tedisco

COMMITTEE STAFF

Shanna Cassidy, *Committee Director*
Dan Ranellone, *Deputy Counsel*
Paul McCarthy, *Assistant Deputy Counsel*
Jonas Shaende, Chrysanthe Cholakis and Michael Vita, *Senate Finance*

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERVIEW

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Racing, Gaming & Wagering has legislative oversight responsibilities for issues concerning New York State Horse Racing subsidies, Gaming facilities, as well as Problem Gaming concerns.

The Committee also led the charge in authorizing the state to provide a \$455 million capital loan to the New York Racing Association for re-developing the Belmont Race Park. The legislative authorization mandated the property located at the Aqueduct Racetrack be relinquished back to the state upon completion of the new Belmont Park.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, 39 bills were referred to the Committee for its review. Of these bills, 13 were reported from the Committee, 10 were passed by the Senate, and 4 passed in both houses. This work was conducted through a series of 3 committee meetings. A list of all bills that were reported from the committee is provided at the end of this report.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key bills were acted on by the committee in 2022:

- S.497 (Stec) – Passed Senate, this bill authorizes organizations to receive a license to hold a game of chance on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day.
- S.1156 (Skoufis) – Passed Senate, this bill permits employees of authorized organizations to operate games of chance.
- S.4738 (Kennedy) – Passed Senate, this bill permits participation in games of bingo by minors who are accompanied by an adult.
- S.5549 (Kennedy) – Passed Senate, this bill will prohibit regional off-track betting corporations from providing items of value exceeding fifteen dollars to any board member, officer, or employee of the corporation, any contractor, subcontractor, consultant, or other agent of the corporation or any spouse, child, sibling, or parent of such persons; adds reporting requirements for regional off-track betting corporations.
- S.5550 (Kennedy) – Passed Senate, this bill prohibits off-track betting corporation vehicles from being used as take-home vehicles by board members, officers, employees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, or agents of such corporation or by certain family members of such individuals; provides an exception therefor.

TWO HOUSE BILLS

In 2023, 4 of the 11 bills referred to the Standing Committee on Racing, Gaming, & Wagering passed both houses of the Legislature. Of these bills, the Governor has signed 4 and vetoed none.

Bill	Sponsor	Summary	Action
S.2076	Addabbo	This bill relates to certain payments to the horsemen's organization; extends such provisions to 2023.	Chaptered 198
S.2077	Addabbo	Extends the provisions relating to the New York state thoroughbred breeding and development fund until twelve years after the commencement of the operation of the video lottery terminal facility at Aqueduct racetrack.	Chaptered 514
S.2779	Addabbo	Allows New York sire stakes eligibility for foals sired by New York state stallions, either in-state or out-of-state.	Chaptered 506
S.4817	Addabbo	Relates to the tax on gaming revenues in region five of zone two and to the tax rates on certain facilities within the Tioga county portion of such region.	Chaptered 528

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Bill No.	Sponsor	Summary	Significant Action
S.497	Stec	Authorizes organizations to receive a license to hold a game of chance on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day.	Passed Senate
S.1156	Skoufis	Permits employees of authorized organizations to operate games of chance.	Passed Senate
S.1957	Addabbo	Relates to handicapping tournaments.	Senate Finance
S.4815	Addabbo	Relates to issuing temporary permits to certain fantasy sports operators that were not offering contests to persons located in New York prior to November 10, 2015.	Senate Rules
S.5549	Kennedy	Prohibit regional off-track betting corporations from providing items of value exceeding fifteen dollars to any board member, officer, or employee of the corporation, any contractor, subcontractor, consultant, or other agent of the corporation or any spouse, child, sibling, or parent of such persons; adds reporting requirements for regional off-track betting corporations.	Passed Senate
S.5550	Kennedy	Prohibits off-track betting corporation vehicles from being used as take-home vehicles by board members, officers, employees, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, or agents of such corporation or by certain family members of such individuals; provides an exception therefor.	Passed Senate
S.5626	Addabbo	Provides that dealer-controlled electronic table game shall not be considered a slot machine.	Senate Finance



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on **Racing, Gaming and Wagering****