

**2019** New York State Senate Standing Committee on  
**RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING**



ANNUAL  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**



Chair  
**Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.**

Ranker  
**Senator Daphne Jordan**



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**SENATOR**  
**JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.**  
15<sup>TH</sup> SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
**MAJORITY DEPUTY WHIP**

**CHAIRMAN**  
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

**COMMITTEES**  
AGING  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS  
DOMESTIC ANIMAL WELFARE  
EDUCATION  
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

August 30, 2019

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

Re: 2019 Racing Gaming and Wagering Committee Annual Report

Dear Majority Leader Stewart Cousins,

I hope this correspondence finds you well. First, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for having the privilege of being Chair of the Racing Gaming and Wagering Committee. I have always viewed the focus of the committee to work towards the credible operation of all aspects of gaming and horseracing in our state, while maximizing the potential for the related revenue, educational funding and job creation. The committee has also attended to addressing the issues of problematic gaming and its addiction, both before and after the addiction begins.

Enclosed, please find the 2019 committee report, summarizing the accomplishments and activities of said committee.

I would like to thank my Committee Director, Shanna Cassidy, and legal counsel, Chris Higgins and Don Boyajian, for their dedicated efforts, as well as the Ranking Minority Member, Senator Daphne Jordan, for her professionalism and input. Additionally, I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their attendance and legislative involvement.

Very truly yours,

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

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.  
New York State Senator  
15<sup>th</sup> District



## **Committee Members**

Senator Joseph P. Addabbo Jr., Chairman  
Senator Daphne Jordan, Ranking Minority Member

Senator Leroy Comrie  
Senator James F. Gaughran  
Senator Pamela A. Helming  
Senator Shelley B. Mayer  
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky

## **Committee Staff**

Shanna Cassidy, Committee Director  
Christopher Higgins, Deputy Counsel  
Donald Boyajian, Associate Counsel  
Andrew Bock, Senate Finance

## **Racing, Gaming & Wagering Bills that Passed Both Houses (9)**

### **Disposition of Off-Track Pools**

#### **S.1975 (Addabbo)/A.7187 (Pretlow)**

This bill allows Yonkers Raceway to maintain its status as a regional track.

Senate Vote on 5/22/19: 61-0

Assembly Vote on 6/18/19: 144-4

*\*8/31/19 This bill was signed Chapter 241 by the Governor*

### **Task Force on Responsible Gaming**

#### **S.1978-A (Addabbo)/A.3477-A (Cymbrowitz)**

This bill establishes an 11-member legislative task force on responsible gaming. The task force will advance responsible gaming policies at wagering facilities in the State to combat problem gambling.

Senate Vote on 3/20/19: 62-0

Assembly Vote on 5/30/19: 139-4

*\*Awaiting the Signature by the Governor*

### **Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund**

#### **S.2314 (Addabbo)/A.6184 (Pretlow)**

This bill provides continued revenue and operational flexibility to the New York State Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund.

Senate Vote on 3/11/19: 62-0

Assembly Vote on 5/07/19: 132-1

*\*Awaiting the Signature by the Governor*

### **Payments to the Horsemen's Organization**

#### **S.2315 (Addabbo)/A.4734 (Pretlow)**

This bill extends the authority of the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association to receive an additional 1.0 percent of purse funds to support additional medical and mental health services for backstretch employees.

Senate Vote on 3/11/19: 62-0

Assembly Vote on 5/07/19: 134-0

*\*On 7/27/19, this bill was signed Chapter 122 by the Governor*

### **Operation of Certain Bingo Games**

#### **S.3917-A (Stavisky)/A.6212-A Rosenthal D**

This bill increases the number of days when senior citizen groups are permitted to conduct bingo games.

Senate Vote on 6/03/19: 53-9

Assembly Vote on 6/04/19: 145-2

*\*Awaiting the Signature by the Governor*

### **New York State Legend on Bell Jar**

#### **S.4587 (Sanders)/A. 4623 (Pretlow)**

This bill requires that bell jar tickets sold in New York State contain an imprint of a legend approved by the New York State Racing and Wagering Board.

Senate Vote on 6/11/19: 58-3

Assembly Vote 3/14/19: 129-5

*\*Awaiting the Signature by the Governor*

### **Belmont Local Advisory Board**

#### **S.5481-B (Kaplan)/A.2317-B (Solages)**

This bill creates a 15-member Belmont track advisory board comprised of representatives of South Floral Park, Elmont, and the New York Racing Association. Belmont is a major thoroughbred horseracing facility currently undergoing a \$1 billion redevelopment through Empire State Development.

Senate Vote on 6/18/19: 46-16

Assembly Vote 6/17/19: 111-34

*\*Awaiting the Signature by the Governor*

**Operational Expenses for Certain Gaming Facilities**

**S.6270 (Addabbo)/A.7773 (Buttenschon)**

This bill continues to provide additional revenues to Vernon Downs Casino and Hotel for operating purposes.

Senate Vote: 62-0

Assembly Vote: 129-18

*\* On 7/3/19 this bill was signed Chapter 68 by the Governor*

**Regulation and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages at Certain Tribal Casinos**

**S.6271 (Addabbo)/A.8167 (Pretlow)**

This bill provides the New York State Gaming Commission with oversight authority to regulate alcohol service in the State's Indian casinos.

Senate Vote on 6/17/19: 60-2

Assembly on 6/21/19: 132-3

*\* On 7/3/19 this bill was signed Chapter 68 by the Governor*



## **Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee Bills that Passed the Senate (8)**

### **Mobile Sports Wagering**

#### **S.17-D (Addabbo)**

This bill creates a statutory framework for sports betting and includes provisions related to licensing, fees, taxation, and revenue allocation. Additionally, this proposal authorizes mobile sports wagering. Only licensed commercial casinos can host mobile sports wagering platforms. Tribal casinos may also choose to participate in mobile sports wagering. OTBs, thoroughbred racetracks, harness tracks/VLT facilities, and professional sports stadiums may host casino-owned mobile sports betting kiosks.

Senate Vote on 6/17/19: 57-5

### **Participation in Games of Bingo by Minors**

#### **S.509 (Kennedy)**

This bill seeks to allow individuals under the age of 18 to play bingo as long as they are accompanied by an adult

Senate Vote on 3/11/19: 61-1

### **Commission on Retired Racehorses**

#### **S.1974-A (Addabbo)**

This bill establishes a seven-member commission on retired racehorses that will create a mandatory registry for all retired racehorses in the State.

Senate Vote on 6/11/19: 56-5

### **Games of Chance Fundraisers**

#### **S.3301 (Brooks)**

This bill will authorize organizations to conduct poker tournaments as licensed games of chance fundraisers.

Senate Vote on 4/29/19: 58-3

## **Organizations Operating Games of Chance**

### **S.4034 (Skoufis)**

This bill will allow employees of authorized organizations, such as the American Legion, to participate in the management of games of chance.

Senate Vote on 5/06/19: 61-0

## **Racing Fan Advisory Council**

### **S.5476 (Addabbo)**

This bill codifies and makes permanent the existence of the Racing Fan Advisory Council which was previously created through continuing resolution adopted by the New York State Gaming Commission.

Senate Vote on 5/29/19: 60-0

## **Operational Licenses**

### **S6139 (Addabbo)**

This bill relates to licensing of employees and vendors of commercial casinos.

Senate Vote on 6/19/19: 53-9

## **Mid-Atlantic Compact on Equine Drug Standards**

### **S.6142 (Addabbo)**

This bill authorizes the State to enter into an Interstate Compact on Anti-Doping and Drug Testing Standards for thoroughbred racing. This legislation promotes uniformity in drug testing standards for thoroughbred racing and is similar to a FY20 Executive Budget proposal.

Senate Vote on 6/11/19: 61-0

# Public Hearing on Sports Betting in New York State

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 – 11:00 AM  
Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room A

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



Witness List in Speaking Order

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### PANEL Sport Leagues

Daniel Spillane  
*Senior Vice-President*  
*NBA*

Andy Levinson  
*Senior Vice-President*  
*PGA*

### PANEL Players Associations

Joseph Briggs  
*Public Policy Counsel*  
*NFL*

**PANEL**  
**Commercial Casinos**

Chris Grove  
*Managing Director,  
Sports & Emerging Vertical*

Thomas Wilmot, Jr.  
*President of  
Casino Development & Management*

**PANEL**  
**Industry Operators**

Danielle Boyd  
*Head of Government Relations  
William Hill US*

James Sottile  
*Executive Vice-President  
Scientific Games*

Kip Levin  
*President & COO  
FanDuel*

Jeremy Kleiman  
*iDEA Growth*

**PANEL**  
**Integrity Monitoring/Location Verification/Data**

Jake Williams  
*Vice President  
SportRadar*

Chris Dougan  
*Chief Communications Officer  
Genius Sports*

Lindsay Slader  
*Vice-President Regulatory Affairs  
GeoComply*

James Kilsby  
*Vice-President-Americas  
Gambling Compliance*

**PANEL**  
**Native American Tribes/Constitutionally**

Daniel Wallach  
*Founder  
Wallach Legal*

Jeff Ifrah  
*Founder  
Ifrah Law*

Sarah Walters  
*Counsel  
Brownstein Hyatt  
Farber Schreck*

**PANEL**

**New York Legacy Interests**

David O'Rourke  
*CEO & President*  
*New York Racing Association*

Joseph Applebaum  
*President*  
*NY Thoroughbred Horsemen Assoc.*

Jeffrey Cannizzo  
*Executive Director*  
*NY Thoroughbred Breeders*

Joseph Faraldo  
*President*  
*Standardbred Owners Assoc.*

Anthony Pancella  
*Vice-President/COO*  
*Suffolk OTB*

**PANEL**

**Gambling Addiction**

James Maney  
*Executive Director*  
*NY Council on Problem Gambling*

Stephen Shafer  
*Coalition Against Gambling in NY*

# Public Hearing on the Welfare of Racehorses in New York State

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 – 10:00 AM

Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room A

## SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING AND THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC ANIMAL WELFARE



Witness List in Speaking Order

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### PANEL

Robert Williams

*Deputy Secretary*

*NYS Gaming Commission*

Scott Palmer

*Equine Medical Director*

*NYS Gaming Commission*

**PANEL**

Dr. Sheila Lyons

*Founder and Director, The American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and  
Rehabilitation Homecoming Farm, Inc.*

Dr. Kraig Kulikowski

*Equine Veterinarian*

**PANEL**

Sue McDonough

*Legislative Committee - NYS Humane Association*

John Scheib

*Director, Responsible Animal Care, Inc.*

Patrick Battuello

*Founder, President of Horse Racing Wrongs.com*

**PANEL**

John Holland

*President of Equine Welfare Alliance*

Susan Wagner

*President & Founder, Equine Advocates*

Dr. Lester Freidlander

*Equine Veterinarian*

**PANEL**

Susan Kayne

*Founder & CEO, Unbridled Thoroughbred Foundation*

Anna Ford

*New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program*

Betty Holt

*Purple Haze Standardbred Adoption Program*

Diana Pikulski

*Editor, Thoroughbred Adoption Network*

Colleen Segarra

*President, Equine Rescue Resource, Inc.*

**PANEL**

Tom DeJesu

*Director of Public Outreach NYRA*

**PANEL**

Jeffrey Cannizzo

*New York Thoroughbred Breeders*

Andy Belfiore

*New York Thoroughbred Horseman's Association*

Lisa Molloy

*Saratoga War Horse Program*

Richard Schosberg

*New York Thoroughbred Horseman's Association*



**Robert Williams**

**Executive Director, NYS Gaming Commission**

**Presentation to Committee and Nomination**

On May 13, 2019, Robert Williams, the current Executive Director of the New York State Gaming Commission, addressed the members of the NYS Senate Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering.

In his remarks to the Committee, Mr. Williams noted that he began his career in this public policy area as an employee of the NYS Senate Finance Committee, specializing in racing, gaming and wagering issues.

Mr. Williams has been working in the field of gambling policy and regulation for the past 26 years. Throughout this time, he has assisted with the development of many significant gambling policies, including Video Lottery Gaming, and various tribal compacts and amendments to these agreements. He was also integrally involved in the process of examining and approving final applications for casino gaming facilities authorized in Upstate New York under the 2013 Upstate New York Gaming Economic Development Act.

As Executive Director, Mr. Williams oversees how all components of the gambling industry operate, and how they intersect and interact with one another. The Executive Director continuously examines the core responsibilities and functions of each unit within the Gaming Commission, ensuring that they are all appropriately meeting their statutory charges, are well positioned to assist varying constituencies, and are providing responsive and effective state gaming regulation and oversight.

At the meeting, Mr. Williams discussed the direction of the Commission and its concerns regarding the changing demographics of the lottery system, the health and safety of all participants in horseracing, the implementation of legalized sports betting, and the many issues surrounding commercial casino gaming, including ongoing controversies surrounding mobile sports betting.

On May 29, 2019, the Committee voted to formally approve the nomination of Mr. Williams as Executive Director of the Commission, a position he had previously held in an acting capacity.







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