One Hundred and Third

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND RACING COMMISSION

Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor of Maryland

Portia Wu
Secretary

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

MARYLAND RACING COMMISSION
300 E. Towsontown Blvd
Towson, MD 21286

August 16, 2024

Portia Wu
Secretary
Maryland Department of Labor
500 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President
Senate of Maryland
State House, H-107
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Adrienne Jones
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Report required by Business Regulation Article §11–213 (MSAR 710, 6526)

Dear Secretary Wu, Senate President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

On or before September 15 of each year, the Maryland Racing Commission is required to submit a report to the Secretary and the Legislative Policy Committee about the preceding calendar year. The Commission is pleased to present you with the annual report for calendar year 2023.
Each report shall include:
(1) a statement of receipts and disbursements of the Commission;
(2) a summary of major events that occurred the preceding year that affected horse racing in the State, including any significant changes at tracks in the region as well as a discussion of legislative initiatives in the State;
(3) a 5-year assessment of each track regarding:
(i) attendance;
(ii) purse distributions;
(iii) live racing days that are allocated and used;
(iv) betting on live racing that is held at that track broken down by the following categories:
1. betting conducted at the live track;
2. betting conducted at other Maryland tracks;
3. betting conducted at satellite simulcast facilities in the State; and
4. betting conducted through out-of-state satellite simulcasting;
(v) betting that is conducted at the live track on races simulcast from other tracks in the State; and

(vi) betting that is conducted at the live track on races simulcast from out-of-state tracks;
(4) information on all simulcast betting at satellite simulcast facilities in the State, including information on how much is wagered on in-state races and how much is bet on out-of-state races;
(5) information on all simulcast betting that is conducted out-of-state on races being run live in this State;
(6) to the extent available, information on the breeding industry in the State, including:
(i) the number of breeders in the State;
(ii) the number of foals registered in the State;
(iii) the average sales prices of foals; and
(iv) any other information pertaining to the regional and national ranking of the State for breeding;
(7) all other information that is currently provided by the Commission in its annual report;
(8) additional information on satellite simulcast facilities, as required under § 11-831 of this title; and
(9) any other information that is useful in explaining the financial viability of horse racing in the State and any recommendations to improve the industry.

A review of this report will give you an overview of the horse racing industry in Maryland.

J. Michael Hopkins
Executive Director

cc: Legislative Policy Committee
Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 hard copies)

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The Commission during the year 2023 consisted of:

Chairman
Michael J. Algeo

Members
Emmet Davitt
M. Konrad Wayson
Tammy Lafferty
Tom Winebrenner
David Hayden
Ernest R. Grecco
Dr. Tom Bowman
Robert Lillis
George P. Mahoney, Jr.
Ellen Zavian
Dr. Jennifer Wright

The Commission Staff
J. Michael W. Hopkins, Executive Director
Doreen K. Munday, Admin. Program Manager
Cheryl Kauffman, Fiscal Accounts Supervisor
Sydney Young, Fiscal Clerk II
Dennis O'Neill, Chief Investigator
Enrique Jurado, Investigator

Stewards
Adam Campola, Administrative Steward
Russell Derderian, Associate Steward
Ross Pearce, Associate Steward

Veterinarians
Dr. Elizabeth Daniel, Equine Medical Director
Dr. Kelly Walsh, Veterinarian
Dr. Sam Sacksen, Veterinarian
Dr. Sarah Dilodovico, Veterinarian

MEETING STATISTICS - 2023

Commission Meetings

In 2023, the Commission met to conduct business on nine (9) occasions.

Highlights

REVENUE:

$ 1,821,828 was collected by the State in 2023. This amount represents an increase from the amount of revenue collected in 2022.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance at Maryland tracks was 216,144 in 2023. Since attendance is not kept for patronage at Satellite Simulcast Betting Facilities and at remote tracks, recorded attendance alone is not a good measure of activity.

Rosecroft & Ocean Downs do not keep a record of attendance.

Legislation

HB 1524 – Altered the ownership of Pimlico and allowed it to be transferred to the Maryland Racetrack Operating Authority and subsequently operated by a non-profit entity.

2023 RACING DATES

MILE TRACKS:

Laurel	January 1 – December 31	137	
	Simulcast Days	129	
		266	Days
Pimlico	January 1 - December 31	23	
	Simulcast Days	243	
		266	Days
	Total	**532**	**Days**

COUNTY FAIR TRACKS:

Timonium	August – September	7	
	Simulcast Days	3	
	Total	**10**	**Days**

STEEPLECHASE :

Fair Hill	May	0	
	Total	**0**	**Days**

TOTAL LIVE:	**167**	**DAYS**
TOTAL SIMULCAST ONLY:	**375**	**DAYS**
THOROUGHBRED TOTAL:	**542**	**DAYS**

2023 RACING DATES
(Continued)

HARNESS TRACKS:

Rosecroft	January 1 – December 31	60	
	Simulcast Days	303	
		363	Nights
Ocean Downs	January 1 – December 31	47	
	Simulcast Days	258	
		305	Nights

TOTAL LIVE:	**107**	**NIGHTS**
TOTAL SIMULCAST ONLY:	**561**	**NIGHTS**
HARNESS TOTAL:	**668**	**NIGHTS**

TOTAL LIVE RACING DAYS AND NIGHTS	**274**
TOTAL SIMULCAST ONLY	**936**
GRAND TOTAL	**1,210**

RACE YEAR SUMMARY:

During the year 2023, there were 1,210 days and nights of licensed racing in the State, consisting of the following:

There were 532 days of licensed racing at the Mile Tracks – Pimlico 266 days and Laurel 266 days; 10 days at Timonium; and -0- days raced at Fair Hill. There were also 668 nights of licensed racing at the Harness Tracks – Rosecroft 363 nights and Ocean Downs 305 nights.

ATTENDANCE FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2021 - 2023

	2023	2022	2021
Laurel	142,609	147,106	108,254
Pimlico	63,325	69,862	55,458
Timonium *	10,210	9,234	10,105
TOTAL:	**216,144**	**226,202**	**173,817**
Rosecroft **	**	**	**
Ocean Downs**	**	**	**
TOTAL:	**0**	**0**	**0**
Fair Hill	**0**	**0**	**0**
TOTAL:	**216,144**	**226,202**	**173,817**

*Includes attendance from State Fair
**Not recorded at Rosecroft and Ocean Downs

WAGERING HISTORY IN MARYLAND
of
THOROUGHBRED AND HARNESS RACING

THOROUGHBRED STATISTICS:

YEAR	LICENSED DAYS	AMOUNT WAGERED
2008	303	225,189,800
2009	291	195,908,615
2010	290	190,800,402
2011	267	182,980,868
2012	336	158,031,769
2013	363	134,515,395
2014	362	122,668,323
2015	361	129,139,471
2016	362	102,388,036
2017	363	94,123,538
2018	362	88,957,359
2019	641	82,329,162
2020	355	22,424,942
2021	512	48,617,737
2022	544	58,241,590
2023	542	57,827,854

HARNESS STATISTICS:

YEAR	LICENSED DAYS	AMOUNT WAGERED
2008	727	100,559,207
2009	738	65,631,105
2010	823	22,753,567
2011	490	20,810,252
2012	717	34,180,137
2013	723	47,922,650
2014	724	46,070,856
2015	719	40,915,568
2016	724	46,168,043
2017	725	44,110,698
2018	722	36,081,700
2019	725	48,122,467
2020	339	22,197,422
2021	504	14,125,281
2022	710	21,337,577
2023	668	18,282,063

SSB FACILITIES STATISTICS:

YEAR	AMOUNT WAGERED
2008	52,507,771
2009	41,360,026
2010	38,137,636
2011	30,812,484
2012	14,288,365
2013	10,212,577
2014	5,140,478
2015	13,857,614
2016	20,449,226
2017	37,829,944
2018	39,237,868
2019	44,837,391
2020	43,355,112
2021	52,212,662
2022	45,850,345
2023	43,487,426

COMBINED TOTALS:

YEAR	LICENSED DAYS	AMOUNT WAGERED
2008	1,030	378,256,778
2009	1,029	302,899,746
2010	1,113	251,691,605
2011	757	234,603,604
2012	1,053	206,500,271
2013	1,086	192,286,622
2014	1,086	172,879,657
2015	1,080	183,912,653
2016	1,086	169,005,305
2017	1,088	176,064,180
2018	1,084	164,276,927
2019	1,364	175,289,020
2020	694	87,977,476
2021	1,016	114,955,680
2022	1,254	125,429,512
2023	1,210	119,597,343

AMOUNT WAGERED

	2023
MILE TRACKS:	
Laurel	$43,477,315
Pimlico	$13,345,186
TOTAL	**$56,822,501**
COUNTY FAIR TRACKS:	
Timonium	$1,005,353
TOTAL	**$1,005,353**
HARNESS TRACKS:	
Rosecroft	$13,748,400
Ocean Downs	$4,533,663
TOTAL	**$18,282,063**
STEEPLECHASE:	
Fair Hill	$0
TOTAL	**$0**
SSB FACILITIES	**$43,487,426**
SUMMARY	
Mile Tracks	$56,822,501
County Fair Tracks	$1,005,353
Harness Tracks	$18,282,063
Steeplechase	$0
SSB Facilities	$43,487,426
TOTAL	**$119,597,343**

SATELLITE SIMULCAST BETTING

The amounts bet at the Satellite Simulcast Betting Facilities in calendar year 2023 are reflected in the following table.

Maryland Satellite Simulcast Betting Facilities

Bet At:	Riverboat	Horseshoe	Timonium	Boonsboro	Perryville	MGM	Greenmount	Frederick
Bets on:								
MD Thoroughbred Races	171,324	567,594	1,527,358	102,016	418,330	718,534	344,014	501,607
MD Harness Races	3,516	17,525	7,456	1,082	2,330	28,492	1,137	7,417
Out-of-State Races	1,367,557	6,303,167	10,996,025	1,214,324	4,254,033	8,115,091	2,051,192	4,766,305
TOTAL	**1,542,397**	**6,888,286**	**12,530,839**	**1,317,422**	**4,674,693**	**8,862,117**	**2,396,343**	**5,275,329**

SSB TOTAL **$43,487,426**

In 2023, SSB facilities met the prescribed food and service standards and provide a convenience to the horse racing public.

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT OF LAUREL

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Attendance	142,609	147,106	108,254	58,138	275,214
Purses	53,413,330	55,174,261	33,131,877	39,699,601	48,225,203
Number of days of live racing	137	145	98	134	162
Betting on its live racing at:					
Laurel	7,814,226	7,538,050	3,490,343	2,656,061	12,534,126
Other MD tracks	1,418,534	1,650,567	874,345	988,369	2,752,581
Satellite Simulcast Facilities	3,208,743	3,080,215	2,228,028	3,027,347	3,482,922
Out-of-state	321,688,968	303,893,225	207,899,757	302,872,853	350,298,087
Betting on other in-State races	1,135,299	1,061,078	1,812,585	27,376	1,367,491
Betting on out-of-State races	34,527,790	35,306,751	27,511,433	11,707,593	48,895,883
Total betting at this location on all racing	**43,477,315**	**43,905,879**	**32,814,361**	**14,391,030**	**62,797,500**

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT OF PIMLICO

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Attendance	63,325	69,862	55,458	31,272	124,952
Purses	11,442,215	10,383,318	20,017,503	4,114,074	5,534,958
Number of days of live racing	23	21	59	6	12
Betting on its live racing at:					
Pimlico	3,947,058	3,808,961	3,382,916	3,166	5,504,782
Other MD tracks	1,247,735	1,204,825	2,139,745	52,509	1,456,936
Satellite Simulcast Facilities in MD	1,083,209	1,094,131	2,076,677	615,525	955,670
Out-of-state	181,865,968	173,783,446	279,449,636	66,369,261	140,562,792
Betting on other in-State races	768,104	794,353	587,469	691,206	1,291,630
Betting on out-of-State races	8,630,024	8,664,110	10,688,960	7,339,540	11,390,038
Total betting at this location on all racing	**13,345,186**	**13,267,424**	**14,659,345**	**8,033,912**	**18,186,450**

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT OF TIMONIUM

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Attendance	10,210	9,234	10,105	0	13,206
Purses	2,143,390	2,048,770	2,009,470	0	1,394,225
Number of days of live racing	7	7	7	0	7
Betting on its live racing at:					
Timonium	489,391	462,134	520,411	0	596,163
Other MD tracks	164,416	124,560	129,839	0	271,024
Satellite Simulcast Facilities in MD	67,825	62,924	68,603	0	73,916
Out-of-state	4,103,198	2,937,941	2,563,132	0	3,325,974
Betting on other in-State races	688	229	81	0	305
Betting on out-of-State races	515,274	605,924	623,539	0	623,823
Total betting at this location on all racing	**1,005,353**	**1,068,287**	**1,144,031**	**0**	**1,220,291**

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT OF ROSECROFT

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
***Attendance not recorded**	*0	*0	*0	*0	*0
Purses	9,602,590	8,849,628	6,143,686	5,750,511	7,225,498
Number of days of live racing	60	60	60	45	59
Betting on its live racing at:					
Rosecroft	452,281	494,112	316,005	237,040	944,058
Other MD tracks	68,825	76,809	119,084	94,536	187,115
Satellite Simulcast Facilities in MD	54,858	58,343	107,616	106,626	106,173
Out-of-state	17,527,451	13,376,893	16,293,982	11,532,008	10,015,131
Betting on other in-State races	756,658	984,154	569,005	175,413	1,627,964
Betting on out-of-State races	12,539,461	14,882,517	8,395,353	3,896,726	22,192,960
Total betting at this location on all racing	**13,748,400**	**16,360,783**	**9,280,363**	**4,309,179**	**24,764,982**

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT OF OCEAN DOWNS

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
***Attendance not recorded**	*0	*0	*0	*0	38,721
Purses	6,629,878	5,805,308	4,017,797	2,852,368	4,888,143
Number of days of live racing	47	45	44	41	47
Betting on its live racing at:					
Ocean Downs	711,370	749,355	808,474	215,492	917,865
Other MD tracks	77,904	93,281	68,742	6,216	129,682
MD Satellite Simulcast Facilities	14,098	29,096	33,148	48,123	49,134
Out-of-state	10,385,806	9,869,384	6,873,892	2,539,779	6,001,502
Betting on other in-State races	318,637	304,510	316,615	250,665	509,948
Betting on out-of-State races	3,503,656	3,922,929	3,719,829	2,998,096	5,300,107
Total betting at this location on all racing	**4,533,663**	**4,976,794**	**4,844,918**	**3,464,253**	**6,727,920**

METHOD OF TAXATION

TAKEOUT AT MARYLAND THOROUGHBRED RACETRACKS

Effective July 1, 2005

	Regular Pool%	2-Horse Multiple	3-Horse Multiple 1st Race
State Tax	.32	.32	.32
Purses	7.88 (1)	8.88 (1)	11.88 (1)
Track	7.70 (2)	8.70 (2)	11.70 (2)
Maryland Million	1.00	2.0	.75
Bred Fund	1.10	1.10	1.10
Total Takeout	18.00	21.00	25.75
Returned to Public	82.00	79.00	74.25
Total Handle	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %

Timonium

State Tax	0 (3)	0 (3)	0 (3)
Purses	5.00	7.00	13.00
Track	10.50 (2)	10.50 (2)	10.50 (2)
Bred Fund	1.50	1.50	1.50
Total Takeout	17.00	19.00	25.00
Returned to Public	83.00	81.00	75.00
Total Handle	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %

Fair Hill

State Tax (Fair Hill Improvement Fund)	9.00
Track	16.00
Total Takeout	25.00
Returned to Public	75.00
Total Handle	100.00 %

(1) Includes .18 for purses.
(2) Includes .25 for Pension Fund.
(3) No State tax paid during the State Fair.

METHOD OF TAXATION
(Continued

TAKEOUT AT MARYLAND HARNESS RACETRACKS

	1-Horse Pool %	2-Horse Pool %	Over 2-Horse Pool %
State Tax	.32	.32	.32
Purses	.18	.18	.18
Track	18.00	20.00	26.00
Standardbred Fund	(4)	(4)	(4)
Track Pensions	(5)	(5)	(5)
Total Takeout	18.75	20.75	26.75
Returned to Public	81.25	79.25	73.25
Total Handle	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %

(4) The amount deducted is .5 and 1.00 respectively of the first $125,000 daily average. The amount deducted for amounts in excess of $125,000 are 1.00, 1.00 and 1.50 of the track share of the takeout.
(5) If daily average for the year exceeds $125,000, .25% of the handle is deducted from all pools for track employee pensions.

REVENUE TO THE STATE: THOROUGHBRED

TOTAL FOR ALL MEETS

	2023	2022
LAUREL		
Race Days	266	267
Tax to the State	263,713	266,377
License Fee	6,650	6,675
	270,363	**273,052**
PIMLICO		
Race Days	266	267
Tax to the State	170,534	171,804
License Fee	6,650	6,675
	177,184	**178,479**
TOTAL THOROUGHBRED	**447,547**	**451,531**
COUNTY FAIR: TIMONIUM		
Race Days	10	10
Tax to the State	-0-	-0-
License Fee	-0-	-0-
	-0-	-0-
TOTAL COUNTY FAIR	**-0-**	**-0-**
STEEPLECHASE: FAIR HILL		
Race Days	-0-	-0-
Tax to the State	-0-	-0-
TOTAL STEEPLECHASE	**-0-**	**-0-**

REVENUE TO THE STATE: HARNESS

	2023	2022
ROSECROFT		
Race Days	363	361
Tax to the State	95,106	98,318
License Fee	9,075	9,025
	104,181	**107,343**
OCEAN DOWNS		
Race Days	305	349
Tax to the State	14,770	14,436
License Fee	7,625	8,725
	22,395	**23,161**
TOTAL HARNESS	**126,576**	**130,504**

(Race days include live and simulcast only days)

SUMMARY OF LICENSES & REGISTRATIONS ISSUED

2023

THOROUGHBRED LICENSES:

606	Original Owner
1,957	Renewal Owner
44	Original Trainer
230	Renewal Trainer
115	Assistant Trainer
256	Owner / Trainer
141	Jockey
42	Apprentice Jockey
21	Jockey Agent
38	Veterinarian
25	Farrier
841	Stable Employee
122	Mutuel Employee
127	Vendor
187	Exercise Rider
278	Track Employee

5,030	**TOTAL LICENSES**

THOROUGHBRED REGISTRATIONS:

86	Authorized Agent
1106	Assumed Name

1192	**TOTAL REGISTRATIONS**

SUMMARY OF LICENSES & REGISTRATIONS ISSUED
(Continued)

HARNESS LICENSES:

165	Original Owner
451	Renewal Owner
10	Original Trainer
32	Renewal Trainer
29	Driver
33	Trainer / Driver
172	Owner / Trainer
139	Owner / Trainer / Driver
15	Owner / Driver
4	Veterinarian
146	Stable Employee
18	Mutuel Employee
95	Track Employee
20	Vendor
0	Farrier

1,329	**TOTAL LICENSES**

HARNESS REGISTRATIONS:

0	Authorized Agent
137	Assumed Name

137	**TOTAL REGISTRATIONS**

UNCASHED PARI-MUTUEL TICKETS

If any winning ticket is not redeemed for a period of one (1) year from the date of issue, the amount necessary to redeem the ticket shall be paid to a special fund of the State. The following receipts are from race meetings conducted in the year prior to that indicated by the columnar heading. Collected July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023

	2023	2022
Mile Tracks	$545,068	$359,658
Harness Tracks	106,375	51,613
County Fair Track	0 *	0 *
Steeplechase	0	0
TOTAL UNCASHED PARI-MUTUEL TICKETS	**$651,443**	**$411,271**

*County Fair uncashed monies included with mile tracks.
**SSB's uncashed monies included with racetracks uncashed tickets.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

DISBURSED TO THE STATE COMPTROLLER

	2023
MILE TRACKS:	
Track License Fees	$13,300
Tax on Betting	434,247
Uncashed Pari-Mutuels	545,068
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS MILE TRACKS	**$992,615**
COUNTY FAIR TRACKS:	
Tax on Betting (6)	$0
Uncashed Pari-Mutuels	*
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS COUNTY FAIR TRACKS	**0**
HARNESS TRACKS:	
Track License Fees	$16,700
Tax on Betting	109,876
Uncashed Pari-Mutuels	106,375
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS HARNESS TRACKS	**$232,951**
STEEPLECHASE:	
Tax on Betting	$0
Uncashed Pari-Mutuels	0
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS STEEPLECHASE	**$0**
OTB'S:	
Permit Fee	$4,500
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS O.T.B.	**$4,500**
TOTAL ALL DISBURSEMENTS	**$1,230,066**

(6) No State tax is payable when racing is conducted during the State Fair.
*County Fair uncashed monies included with mile tracks.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

DISBURSED TO THE STATE COMPTROLLER
(Continued)

DIRECT DISBURSEMENTS TO STATE COMPTROLLER:

	2023
Tax on Admissions	$0
Sales Tax on Horses Claimed	591,762
TOTAL DIRECT DISBURSEMENTS TO STATE	**591,762**
TOTAL ALL DISBURSEMENTS TO STATE COMPTROLLER	**$1,821,828**

STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

SALARIES & BENEFITS	
Commission Personnel	$481,679
Total Salary Expenses	**$481,679**
OFFICE EXPENDITURES:	
Telephone and Postage	8,655
Travel Expenses	5,819
Motor Vehicle Oper	1,158
Contractual Services, i.e., Printing, Repairs, Equipment and Leasing, Court Expenses, Transcript of Hearings	52,032
Office Supplies	1,604
Office Equipment Additional	2,775
Fixed Charges, i.e., Rent, Insurance, Subscriptions and Dues	12,934
Total Office Expenses	**$84,977**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND DISBURSEMENTS (7)	**$566,656**
OTHER DISBURSEMENTS:	
Grants	**$1,135,512**
Impact Aid	**$0**
Other:	
Fair Hill	$0
Maryland Standardbred Race Fund	272,211
Maryland Million	388,874
Total Other:	**$661,085**
TOTAL OTHER DISBURSEMENTS	**$1,796,597**

(7) Does not include salaries of Stewards and Judges, nor salaries of personnel and expenses reimbursed by the associations.

THE MARYLAND JOCKEY INJURY COMPENSATION FUND

The Maryland Jockey Injury Compensation Fund, Inc. was established by legislative action during the 1985 session of the General Assembly and became effective January 1, 1986.

The purpose of this fund is to purchase a blanket workmen's compensation insurance policy for all jockeys licensed by the Maryland Racing Commission and participating at the Maryland race tracks.

POLICY COST

2004	$ 611,533
2005	$ 655,311
2006	$ 741,868
2007	$ 977,423
2008	$ 723,852
2009	$ 476,211
2010	$ 404,954
2011	$ 508,182
2012	$1,675,611
2013	$1,648,613
2014	$1,223,005
2015	$ 808,553
2016	$ 882,763
2017	$ 990,509
2018	$ 986,874
2019	$1,030,888
2020	$1,019,114
2021	$1,163,176
2022	$ 908,680
2023	$ 997,596

The above costs were funded by an assessment on all licensed owners and trainers levied and collected by the Maryland Racing Commission at the time of licensure. The assessment per licensee for 2023 was $ 100.00.

MARYLAND-BRED FUND REPORT

MARYLAND-BRED FUND DISTRIBUTION IS EXPLAINED

The Maryland-Bred Fund was created by the General Assembly in 1962. Maryland was the first state to develop a legislated incentive program to encourage the improvement of Thoroughbred breeding and racing. Since that time, more than 30 other states have instituted incentive programs of one kind or another.

In Maryland, there are six categories through which monies from the Fund are made available:

1) **purse money** for stakes races for registered Maryland-breds,

2) **awards for owners** of registered Maryland-breds finishing first, second or third

3) **awards for breeders** of registered Maryland-breds finishing first, second or third,

4) **awards for the owners of stallions** which are duly registered with the Maryland Horse Breeders Association (MHBA),

5) **yearling show bonus awards for** the four highest-earning 2 and 3-year-olds shown at the annual MHBA yearling show (based on North American earnings), and

6) **Maryland-sired allocation** for purses and awards for horses conceived in Maryland by a registered/nominated Maryland Stallion.

The Maryland-Bred Fund receives slightly less than 1 percent of the total mutual handle and breakage from Laurel and Pimlico (the State's two mile tracks), and receives approximately 1.5 percent of the mutual handle and 5.0 percent of the breakage at Timonium (the State's half mile track).

In 2023, revenue for the Maryland-Bred Fund totaled nearly $9.1 million. After eligible deductions, a portion of this money is allocated to purses. The remaining percentage is distributed in the form of breeder awards and stallion awards. In 2023, nearly $502,000 was paid in purses and $6.2 million was disbursed as breeder and stallion awards.

In 2023, breeder and stallion awards were paid for the registered Maryland-bred who finished first through third in any race in Maryland. The breeder awards remained at

22.5% and the stallion bonuses were 7.5% of the winner's share for all races except Maryland Million Day, where bonus percentages were 15% breeder and 5% stallion. Thirty percent breeder bonuses went to horses placing 1st in a Maiden race if sired by a Maryland sire. In stakes races, the award is based on the first $100,000 of the gross purse. The Maryland-bred stakes program is typically planned on a meet-by-meet basis and is based on projected revenues for the coming year.

The Maryland-Bred Fund program is administered by the Maryland Racing Commission with the assistance and advice of the Maryland-Bred Fund Advisory Committee chaired by Terry West, a member of the Maryland Racing Commission. Other members of the Maryland Fund Advisory Committee are Georganne Hale (Representing the mile tracks), A. Ferris Allen (Representing the half-mile track), Tim Keefe (Representing the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association) and Katy Voss and Christy Holden (Representing the MHBA).

Under the direction of the Commission, the actual implementation of the fund, including maintaining the Maryland-bred registry and computing and distributing all bonus awards, is performed by the MHBA for which it receives up to 10 percent of the total receipts of the Fund, subject to the approval of the Maryland Racing Commission.

Breeder and stallion award percentages are determined on a bi-annual basis on the advice of the Maryland Fund Advisory Committee. Owner award percentages are determined by a separate agreement. (For Maryland Million Day, breeder and stallion award percentages are determined annually). Awards are distributed as soon as is practical. The quality of Maryland-breds has improved since the Maryland-Bred Fund was initiated over 60 years ago and the program is evaluated bi-annually to ensure the most effective use of the money.

MARYLAND STANDARDBRED RACE FUND

Total purses for the year were $ 2,255,975, an increase from 2022 purses. The Maryland Sire Stakes (MSS) and Maryland Standardbred Fund (MSF) combined totals for the program in each year from 2002 through 2023 are shown below:

YEAR	MSS	MSF	TOTAL
2002	$970,360	$900,690	$1,871,050
2003	$947,550	$833,250	$1,780,800
2004	$784,000	$537,127	$1,321,127
2005	$779,104	$627,761	$1,406,865
2006	$859,650	$687,860	$1,547,510
2007	$816,750	$620,200	$1,436,950
2008	$720,000	$494,550	$1,214,550
2009	$445,000	$315,550	$760,550
2010	$311,500	$241,475	$552,975
2011	$447,500	$260,250	$707,750
2012	$798,600	$172,250	$970,850
2013	$825,997	$529,475	$1,355,472
2014	$1,406,377	$501,835	$1,908,212
2015	$1,210,700	$472,585	$1,683,285
2016	$1,239,250	$471,775	$1,711,025
2017	$1,487,775	$412,980	$1,990,755
2018	$1,558,500	$235,150	$1,793,650
2019	$1,672,599	$214,775	$1,887,374
2020	$1,055,010	$159,575	$1,214,585
2021	$1,540,900	$197,390	$1,738,290
2022	$1,773,300	$226,650	$1,999,950
2023	$1,861,800	$394,175	$2,255,975