



New York Farm Bureau

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## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

**Assembly Bill 2820 (Assemblyman Pretlow) / Senate Bill 3760 (Senator Bonacic)**

**EXTENDS CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE NEW YORK STATE THOROUGHBRED BREEDING AND DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**Date: 5/01/2017**

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New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express our support for this legislation. If enacted into law, this bill would provide a one-year extension of the law that provides flexibility to the Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund in an effort to help offset major decreases in the amount of monies the Fund collects. The current law is set to sunset on Oct. 28, 2017.

It is estimated that 36% of the Fund's annual revenue was provided by New York City Off-Track Betting (NYCCOTB), prior to its bankruptcy proceedings. To help offset this critical loss of revenue, this legislation would continue the provisions of Chapter 473 for an additional year, allowing the Fund Board to make decisions about how its money is allocated.

The terms of the current law that would be extended allow the Fund Board, at its discretion and by a two-thirds vote, to adjust the statutory caps for each segment of expenditures. This would allow the Fund to increase the cap on breeder's awards from 50% to 65%; increase the amount of money used for promoting the breeding and raising of Thoroughbred horses by 1% to an amount up to 6%; and increase the administrative allotments from 4% up to 5%. In addition, this extension would continue to require by law quarterly payments to the Fund.

The Fund Board of Directors is limited to their discretion on statutory incentive awards payments. As Fund revenues decline from year to year, the ability to pay awards and manage its resources is proving difficult. This legislation is necessary to permit the Fund Board of Directors to vote to continue to distribute revenues as deemed necessary to all expenditure types.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau supports this legislation.