

In re: **2026 HORSE SUPPLY**) **DECISION & ORDER**
PURSUANT TO 8 M.R.S. § 271)

On August 25, 2026, the Maine State Harness Racing Commission (“Commission”) held a public hearing pursuant to 8 M.R.S. § 271(7) to determine whether the horse supply has been adequate for the number of dashes conducted on the assigned race dates for 2026. A quorum of the Commission was present during all stages of the proceedings. Chair Harry B. Center II, Barry Norris, Don Marean, and Chandler Woodcock participated and voted as Commission members. The July 28, 2025, Notice of Hearing informing interested parties of the hearing was admitted without objection as Exhibit 1. The 2026 MSHRC Horse Supply Tracking Sheet was admitted as Exhibit 2. Additional data on the horse supply, which included Race Back Information for the Commission, was admitted as Exhibit 3. Miles Greenleaf (“Mr. Greenleaf”), Agricultural Program Supervisor, testified during the hearing. There were no intervenors pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 9054.

Mr. Greenleaf testified to the information contained within the Horse Supply Tracking Sheet, which reflected racing days awarded to facilities and fairs, the total days raced, dashes awarded, and the number of horses in each race, among other information. Thus far this racing season, there has been an average of 7.5 - 8 horses per race. A full horse field is 8 horses. There have not been many short fields. Executive Director Bacon testified regarding race back information to date this season. Bangor Raceway has more racebacks in May because there is a small horse shortage when racing first starts. Generally, tracks racing in June and July have a

good horse supply and thus fewer racebacks. Mr. Bacon stated that August, going into September, will likely have more racebacks as the fairs have many days of racing without many days off. However, the Race Secretaries should be able to draw conditions for races that will reduce the number of racebacks. The Commission accepted Mr. Greenleaf's and Mr. Bacon's testimony, and there was no opposing testimony.

CONCLUSION AND ORDER

Based on the testimonial and documentary evidence in the record, the Commission concludes that the horse supply has been adequate for the number of dashes conducted on assigned race dates. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that no changes shall be made to the dates and dashes previously awarded to licensees for the conduct of horse racing in this state for the remainder of the 2026 racing season.

RECORD VOTE

After a motion was made and seconded, the Commissioners voted unanimously, 4-0, that the horse supply has been adequate for the number of dashes conducted on assigned race dates.

Dated: September 22, 2026



Harry B. Center II, Chair
Maine State Harness Racing Commission