

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 29 of Title 59.1 a section*  
3 *numbered 59.1-378.1, relating to granting of certain licenses by the Virginia Racing Commission.*

4 [H 1491]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 29 of Title 59.1 a**  
8 **section numbered 59.1-378.1 as follows:**9 *§ 59.1-378.1. Licensing of owners or operators of certain pari-mutuel facilities.*

10 *A. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 59.1-391, the Commission may grant a license, for a duration*  
11 *to be determined by the Commission, to the owner or operator of a steeplechase facility for the purpose*  
12 *of conducting pari-mutuel wagering at steeplechase race meetings for a period not to exceed fourteen*  
13 *days in any calendar year, provided that, prior to making application for such license, (i) the*  
14 *steeplechase facility has been sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association and (ii) the owner or*  
15 *operator of such facility has been granted tax-exempt status under § 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue*  
16 *Code. For purposes of this section, "steeplechase facility" means a turf racecourse constructed over*  
17 *natural ground which is utilized primarily for races where horses jump over fences.*

18 *B. In deciding whether to grant any license pursuant to this section, the Commission shall consider*  
19 *(i) the results of, circumstances surrounding, and issues involved in any referendum conducted under the*  
20 *provisions of § 59.1-391 and (ii) whether the Commission had previously granted a license to such*  
21 *facility, owner, or operator.*

22 *C. In no event shall the Commission issue more than twelve licenses in a calendar year pursuant to*  
23 *this section.*

24 **2. That the provisions of this act shall apply to any county with a population between 86,000 and**  
25 **86,500.**

ENROLLED

HB1491ER