

State of New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

Second Year of the 161st General Court
Calendar and Journal of the 2010 Session

Vol. 32

Concord, N.H.

Friday, March 19, 2010

No. 22A

Contains: Corrected Committee Report

ADDENDUM TO HOUSE CALENDAR 22

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

REGULAR CALENDAR

WAYS AND MEANS

CORRECTED COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 630-FN-A, relative to live racing in New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**
MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. William G Johnson for the **Majority** of Ways and Means: The subject matter of this bill is only focused on live dog racing, a policy issue already settled by the policy committee and the House. Horse racing is totally unaffected. The state saves money, and without the state subsidy ended in the budget for FY11 the tracks would lose money by resuming live dog racing, although the tracks want the option left open for the future. The bill is revenue neutral for the state at this time and avoids future net expense to the state. **Vote 12-5.**

Rep. Dennis P Vachon for the **Minority** of Ways and Means: The minority believes that the legislature is being penny wise and pound foolish with the outlawing of live greyhound racing. Although the House voted to kill the attempt to make live greyhound racing optional at the track two years ago, budget writers squirreled the policy into the budget for this biennium. While the committee has confirmed the approximate \$430,000 in annual savings by not having to regulate live dog racing, the lack of oversight from having state personnel on the premises at tracks will leave the door open for activities that may have a much larger impact on state revenues. Further, the policy leaves pari-mutuel regulations solely at the expense of revenues raised at the state's only horse racing track. Rockingham Park has announced that it will cease live horse racing and the simulcast association governing horse racing is expected to pull their license to simulcast horse racing. The loss of revenue from racing may prove to be substantial for the state and many more times the amount saved by budget writers.