



Dear IHHA Members,

A quick but important update from Springfield:

- The same bill that passed the Senate Executive Committee is moving forward. The new bill number is **SB 1473**.
- We've been meeting with all stakeholders, led by Senator Patrick Joyce and State Representative Dan Didech (Chair, House Gaming).
- Sen. Joyce confirmed yesterday that updated language would be filed by the end of the day, and the intention is to pass this bill during the veto session in two weeks.
- **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

What Senate Bill 1473 does

- Authorizes Decatur (Macon County) standardbred track & racino — a downstate investment that brings jobs, new tax revenue, and long-term purse growth.
- Removes the 35-mile restriction in the Chicago area — unlocking the south suburban harness project and the new state and local tax dollars that come with it.
- Adds bridge revenue at Hawthorne via on-site VGTs — new money for purses now, helping bridge us to full racino operations. *This is not a substitute for a racino; it's a short-term boost while racinos are financed and built.*
- Racing continuity — we will continue racing with Hawthorne in the near term until both racinos are operational.

Why this matters

- New purse dollars start flowing sooner (through the VGT bridge), with larger, sustained purse growth once the racinos open.
- Jobs and tax revenue from Decatur and the south suburbs — a stronger Illinois circuit that keeps horsemen working at home.
- Certainty for breeding and investment decisions heading into 2026.

**Your Call to Action
(Do this now)
SB 1473**

Please contact your State Senator and State Representative right away and ask them to support the horse racing bill, SB 1473, in the veto session.

Focus your message on these points:

1. **Remove the 35-mile restriction** to unlock the south suburban harness facility and deliver significant state and local tax dollars.
2. **Authorize the Decatur/Macon County standardbred track & racino** to drive downstate jobs, investment, and long-term purse growth.
3. **Bridge revenue at Hawthorne** (on-site VGTs) adds new purse dollars now while racino development proceeds — continuity now, growth ahead.

Please let us know any feedback you receive so we can track support.

**FIND YOUR STATE SENATOR
AND REPRESENTATIVE**

Thank you for moving quickly. The timeline is now, and your outreach over the next two weeks will make a difference.

Respectfully,
Jeff Davis

*Stay informed about all of this important
information by texting WIN to 217-217-2774.*

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