



**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"Christie signs law allowing betting at famed Far Hills horse race," nj.com, September 14, 2016

"Betting now allowed at Far Hills steeplechase event," NorthJersey.com, September 14, 2016

"Governor signs bill allowing Far Hills betting," Asbury Park Press, September 15, 2016

RWH/JA

P.L.2016, CHAPTER 54, *approved September 14, 2016*  
Assembly, No. 1697 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT authorizing issuance of a special horse racing permit for  
2 steeplechase races and allowing wagering thereon, and  
3 supplementing chapter 5 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1949,  
9 c.26 (C.5:5-39.1) or any other law to the contrary, the commission  
10 may grant a special permit, to a permit holder in good standing  
11 authorized to conduct running races in this State, for the holding or  
12 conducting of a special steeplechase race meeting at a location other  
13 than a racetrack, provided that the special steeplechase race meeting  
14 is conducted in conjunction with an organization that has  
15 experience conducting steeplechase races pursuant to section 54 of  
16 P.L.1940, c.17 (C.5:5-74), and provided that the special  
17 steeplechase race meeting is recognized by the National  
18 Steeplechase and Hunt Association. A special permit granted  
19 pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the  
20 commission.

21 b. The commission may grant only one special permit pursuant  
22 to subsection a. of this section per calendar year, which shall be  
23 valid only for the calendar year in which it is issued. Any running  
24 race permit holder in good standing may apply for the special  
25 permit. The number of racing days authorized pursuant to the  
26 special permit shall not exceed two days in a calendar year. Any  
27 racing day that is run pursuant to the special permit shall count  
28 toward the total number of racing days allotted to the running race  
29 permit holder.

30 c. A permit holder that is granted a special permit pursuant to  
31 this section shall keep and maintain separate books and records for  
32 the special steeplechase race meeting to the same extent as is  
33 required of a permit holder and shall file such report and audits as  
34 may otherwise be required on or before such date as the  
35 commission may designate.

36 d. Sums in the parimutuel pools shall be distributed as if the  
37 special steeplechase race meeting is held at the location for which  
38 the special permit holder holds a running race permit, as provided in  
39 chapter 5 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes, except that the special  
40 permit holder may enter into a contractual agreement with the

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly ATG committee amendments adopted June 2, 2016.

1 organization with which the permit holder is conducting the special  
2 steeplechase race meeting providing for the distribution of money  
3 that would otherwise statutorily be distributed to the permit holder.

4 <sup>1</sup>e. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the  
5 contrary, simulcasting of a special running race meeting authorized by  
6 this section shall be conducted as if the special running race meeting is  
7 held at the location for which the special permit holder holds a running  
8 race permit, except that the special permit holder may also transmit the  
9 simulcast signal to the racetrack for which the special permit holder  
10 holds a running race permit. The simulcasting within this State of a  
11 special running race meeting authorized by this section shall not  
12 require the consent of any horsemen's organization and shall be made  
13 available at the industry standard rate. Upon application to and  
14 approval by the commission, the holder of a special permit granted  
15 pursuant to subsection a. of this section may transmit simulcast horse  
16 races of the special running race meeting to any facility outside of  
17 New Jersey with which the special permit holder has entered into an  
18 agreement.

19 f. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1949, c.26  
20 (C.5:5-39.1), the conduct of a steeplechase race meeting as provided  
21 under this section, which shall not exceed two days in a calendar year,  
22 shall not require approval by the legal voters of the county or the  
23 municipality where the race is to be held, but the governing body of  
24 the municipality may object to the issuance of the special permit in  
25 accordance with this subsection. Prior to granting a special permit  
26 pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the commission shall provide  
27 written notice to the governing body of the municipality where the  
28 special steeplechase race meeting is to be held. The governing body  
29 may object to the issuance of the special permit by passing a resolution  
30 within 30 days of receipt of the notice and by transmitting a copy of  
31 the resolution to the commission, in which case the special permit shall  
32 not be issued. If the governing body does not object by passing a  
33 resolution within 30 days of receipt of the notice, the commission may  
34 grant the special permit.<sup>1</sup>

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36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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41 Authorizes New Jersey Racing Commission to grant special  
42 horse racing permit for steeplechase races; allows wagering on such  
43 races.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1697

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

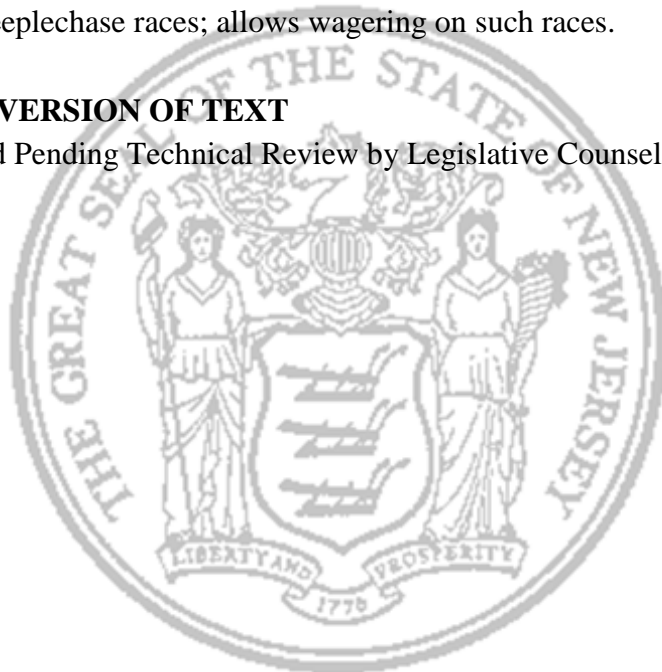
**Assemblyman Peterson, Assemblywoman Handlin and Assemblyman Clifton**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes New Jersey Racing Commission to grant special horse racing permit for steeplechase races; allows wagering on such races.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/19/2016)**

1 AN ACT authorizing issuance of a special horse racing permit for  
2 steeplechase races and allowing wagering thereon, and  
3 supplementing chapter 5 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
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8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1949,  
9 c.26 (C.5:5-39.1) or any other law to the contrary, the commission  
10 may grant a special permit, to a permit holder in good standing  
11 authorized to conduct running races in this State, for the holding or  
12 conducting of a special steeplechase race meeting at a location other  
13 than a racetrack, provided that the special steeplechase race meeting  
14 is conducted in conjunction with an organization that has  
15 experience conducting steeplechase races pursuant to section 54 of  
16 P.L.1940, c.17 (C.5:5-74), and provided that the special  
17 steeplechase race meeting is recognized by the National  
18 Steeplechase and Hunt Association. A special permit granted  
19 pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the  
20 commission.

21 b. The commission may grant only one special permit pursuant  
22 to subsection a. of this section per calendar year, which shall be  
23 valid only for the calendar year in which it is issued. Any running  
24 race permit holder in good standing may apply for the special  
25 permit. The number of racing days authorized pursuant to the  
26 special permit shall not exceed two days in a calendar year. Any  
27 racing day that is run pursuant to the special permit shall count  
28 toward the total number of racing days allotted to the running race  
29 permit holder.

30 c. A permit holder that is granted a special permit pursuant to  
31 this section shall keep and maintain separate books and records for  
32 the special steeplechase race meeting to the same extent as is  
33 required of a permit holder and shall file such report and audits as  
34 may otherwise be required on or before such date as the  
35 commission may designate.

36 d. Sums in the parimutuel pools shall be distributed as if the  
37 special steeplechase race meeting is held at the location for which  
38 the special permit holder holds a running race permit, as provided in  
39 chapter 5 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes, except that the special  
40 permit holder may enter into a contractual agreement with the  
41 organization with which the permit holder is conducting the special  
42 steeplechase race meeting providing for the distribution of money  
43 that would otherwise statutorily be distributed to the permit holder.  
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45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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For decades, the State of New Jersey has been home to the Far Hills race meeting, a celebrated series of steeplechase horse races held in Far Hills in Somerset County. Though the Far Hills race meeting has traditionally been very popular, wagering is not currently permitted on the races. This bill would allow a running race permit holder in good standing with the State to coordinate with the Far Hills Race Meeting Association in order to allow wagering on the races, which should benefit both the horse racing industry and the viewing public.

This bill authorizes the New Jersey Racing Commission to grant a special permit, to a permit holder in good standing authorized to conduct running races in this State, for the holding or conducting of a special steeplechase race meeting at a location other than an official racetrack. The permit holder must conduct the special race meeting in conjunction with an organization that has experience conducting steeplechase races pursuant to N.J.S.A.5:5-74, and the race meeting must be recognized by the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association. A special permit granted pursuant to this bill would be subject to the jurisdiction of the commission.

The commission would be allowed to grant only one special permit per calendar year, which would be valid only for the calendar year in which it is issued. Any running race permit holder in good standing may apply for the special permit. The number of racing days authorized pursuant to the special permit would not be permitted to exceed two days in a calendar year. Any racing day that is run pursuant to the special permit would count toward the total number of racing days allotted to the running race permit holder.

A permit holder that is granted a special permit under the bill would be required to maintain separate books and records, and file reports and audits, for the special steeplechase race meeting to the same extent a permit holder is required to do so by law. Sums in the parimutuel pools that result from wagering on races at the special steeplechase race meeting would be distributed as if the special steeplechase race meeting is held at the location for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit. However, the special permit holder would be able to enter into a contractual agreement with the organization with which the permit holder is conducting the special race meeting providing for the distribution of money that would otherwise statutorily be distributed to the permit holder.

ASSEMBLY TOURISM, GAMING AND THE ARTS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 1697**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 2, 2016

The Assembly Tourism, Gaming and the Arts Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1697.

For decades, the State of New Jersey has been home to the Far Hills race meeting, a celebrated series of steeplechase horse races held in Far Hills in Somerset County. Although the Far Hills race meeting has traditionally been very popular, wagering is not currently permitted on the races. This bill would allow a running race permit holder in good standing with the State to coordinate with the Far Hills Race Meeting Association in order to allow wagering on the races, which should benefit both the horse racing industry and the viewing public.

This bill authorizes the New Jersey Racing Commission to grant a special permit, to a permit holder in good standing authorized to conduct running races in this State, for the holding or conducting of a special steeplechase race meeting at a location other than an official racetrack. The permit holder must conduct the special race meeting in conjunction with an organization that has experience conducting steeplechase races pursuant to N.J.S.A.5:5-74, and the race meeting must be recognized by the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association. A special permit granted pursuant to this bill would be subject to the jurisdiction of the commission.

The commission would be allowed to grant only one special permit per calendar year, which would be valid only for the calendar year in which it is issued. Any running race permit holder in good standing may apply for the special permit. The number of racing days authorized pursuant to the special permit would not be permitted to exceed two days in a calendar year. Any racing day that is run pursuant to the special permit would count toward the total number of racing days allotted to the running race permit holder.

A permit holder that is granted a special permit under the bill would be required to maintain separate books and records, and file reports and audits, for the special steeplechase race meeting to the



same extent a permit holder is required to do so by law. Sums in the parimutuel pools that result from wagering on races at the special steeplechase race meeting would be distributed as if the special steeplechase race meeting is held at the location for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit. However, the special permit holder would be able to enter into a contractual agreement with the organization with which the permit holder is conducting the special race meeting providing for the distribution of money that would otherwise statutorily be distributed to the permit holder.

Under the bill, as amended, the simulcasting of a special running race meeting authorized by the bill would be conducted as if the special running race meeting is held at the location for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit, but the special permit holder may also transmit the simulcast signal to the racetrack for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit. The simulcasting within this State of a special running race meeting authorized by this section would not require the consent of any horsemen's organization and would be made available at the industry standard rate. Upon application to and approval by the commission, the holder of a special permit granted pursuant to the bill may transmit simulcast horse races of the special running race meeting to any facility outside of New Jersey with which the special permit holder has entered into an agreement.

In addition, the bill, as amended, provides that the conduct of a steeplechase race meeting, which must not exceed two days in a calendar year, would not require approval by the legal voters of the county or the municipality where the race is to be held, but the governing body of the municipality may object to the issuance of the special permit. Prior to granting a special permit, the commission would be required to provide written notice to the governing body of the municipality where the special steeplechase race meeting is to be held. The governing body may object to the issuance of the special permit by passing a resolution within 30 days of receipt of the notice and by transmitting a copy of the resolution to the commission, in which case the special permit must not be issued. If the governing body does not object by passing a resolution within 30 days of receipt of the notice, the commission may grant the special permit.

The location of the special steeplechase race meeting is not a horse racetrack and it does not afford the owners of the location any right or privilege of the holder of a permit to conduct a horse race meeting, except as otherwise specifically provided in the bill.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2016-2017 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The amendments:

(1) permit the simulcasting of the special running race meeting to in-State and out-of-State facilities as if the special running race meeting is held at the location for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit, including simulcasting to the racetrack for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit ; and

(2) provide that the conduct of a steeplechase race meeting must not exceed two days in a calendar year, and must not require approval by the legal voters of the county or the municipality where the race is to be held, but that the governing body of the municipality may object to the issuance of the special permit.

Under the amendments, prior to granting a special permit, the commission is required to provide written notice to the governing body of the municipality where the special steeplechase race meeting is to be held. The governing body may object to the issuance of the special permit by passing a resolution within 30 days of receipt of the notice and by transmitting a copy of the resolution to the commission, in which case the special permit would not be issued. If the governing body does not object by passing a resolution within 30 days of receipt of the notice, the commission may grant the special permit.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 1697**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JULY 14, 2016

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1697 (1R).

This bill authorizes the New Jersey Racing Commission to grant a special permit, to a permit holder in good standing authorized to conduct running races in this State, for the holding or conducting of a special steeplechase race meeting at a location other than an official racetrack. The permit holder must conduct the special race meeting in conjunction with an organization that has experience conducting steeplechase races pursuant to N.J.S.A.5:5-74, and the race meeting must be recognized by the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association. A special permit granted pursuant to this bill would be subject to the jurisdiction of the commission.

The commission would be allowed to grant only one special permit per calendar year, which would be valid only for the calendar year in which it is issued. Any running race permit holder in good standing may apply for the special permit. The number of racing days authorized pursuant to the special permit would not be permitted to exceed two days in a calendar year. Any racing day that is run pursuant to the special permit would count toward the total number of racing days allotted to the running race permit holder.

A permit holder that is granted a special permit under the bill would be required to maintain separate books and records, and file reports and audits, for the special steeplechase race meeting to the same extent a permit holder is required to do so by law. Sums in the parimutuel pools that result from wagering on races at the special steeplechase race meeting would be distributed as if the special steeplechase race meeting is held at the location for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit. However, the special permit holder would be able to enter into a contractual agreement with the organization with which the permit holder is conducting the special race meeting providing for the distribution of

money that would otherwise statutorily be distributed to the permit holder.

Under the bill, the simulcasting of a special running race meeting authorized by the bill would be conducted as if the special running race meeting is held at the location for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit, but the special permit holder may also transmit the simulcast signal to the racetrack for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit. The simulcasting within this State of a special running race meeting authorized by this section would not require the consent of any horsemen's organization and would be made available at the industry standard rate. Upon application to and approval by the commission, the holder of a special permit granted pursuant to the bill may transmit simulcast horse races of the special running race meeting to any facility outside of New Jersey with which the special permit holder has entered into an agreement.

In addition, the bill provides that the conduct of a steeplechase race meeting, which must not exceed two days in a calendar year, would not require approval by the legal voters of the county or the municipality where the race is to be held, but the governing body of the municipality may object to the issuance of the special permit. Prior to granting a special permit, the commission would be required to provide written notice to the governing body of the municipality where the special steeplechase race meeting is to be held. The governing body may object to the issuance of the special permit by passing a resolution within 30 days of receipt of the notice and by transmitting a copy of the resolution to the commission, in which case the special permit must not be issued. If the governing body does not object by passing a resolution within 30 days of receipt of the notice, the commission may grant the special permit.

The location of the special steeplechase race meeting is not a horse racetrack and it does not afford the owners of the location any right or privilege of the holder of a permit to conduct a horse race meeting, except as otherwise specifically provided in the bill.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No.1697 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 2394, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

# SENATE, No. 2394

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 20, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator O'Toole**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes New Jersey Racing Commission to grant special horse racing permit for steeplechase races; allows wagering on such races.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT authorizing issuance of a special horse racing permit for  
2 steeplechase races and allowing wagering thereon, and  
3 supplementing chapter 5 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of P.L.1949,  
9 c.26 (C.5:5-39.1) or any other law to the contrary, the commission  
10 may grant a special permit, to a permit holder in good standing  
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13 than a racetrack, provided that the special steeplechase race meeting  
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15 experience conducting steeplechase races pursuant to section 54 of  
16 P.L.1940, c.17 (C.5:5-74), and provided that the special  
17 steeplechase race meeting is recognized by the National  
18 Steeplechase and Hunt Association. A special permit granted  
19 pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the  
20 commission.

21 b. The commission may grant only one special permit pursuant  
22 to subsection a. of this section per calendar year, which shall be  
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26 special permit shall not exceed two days in a calendar year. Any  
27 racing day that is run pursuant to the special permit shall count  
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30 c. A permit holder that is granted a special permit pursuant to  
31 this section shall keep and maintain separate books and records for  
32 the special steeplechase race meeting to the same extent as is  
33 required of a permit holder and shall file such report and audits as  
34 may otherwise be required on or before such date as the  
35 commission may designate.

36 d. Sums in the parimutuel pools shall be distributed as if the  
37 special steeplechase race meeting is held at the location for which  
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39 chapter 5 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes, except that the special  
40 permit holder may enter into a contractual agreement with the  
41 organization with which the permit holder is conducting the special  
42 steeplechase race meeting providing for the distribution of money  
43 that would otherwise statutorily be distributed to the permit holder.

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45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 2394**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JULY 14, 2016

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2394.

This bill authorizes the New Jersey Racing Commission to grant a special permit, to a permit holder in good standing authorized to conduct running races in this State, for the holding or conducting of a special steeplechase race meeting at a location other than an official racetrack. The permit holder must conduct the special race meeting in conjunction with an organization that has experience conducting steeplechase races pursuant to N.J.S.A.5:5-74, and the race meeting must be recognized by the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association. A special permit granted pursuant to this bill would be subject to the jurisdiction of the commission.

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Under the bill, as amended, the simulcasting of a special running race meeting authorized by the bill would be conducted as if the special running race meeting is held at the location for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit, but the special permit holder may also transmit the simulcast signal to the racetrack for which the special permit holder holds a running race permit. The simulcasting within this State of a special running race meeting authorized by this section would not require the consent of any horsemen's organization and would be made available at the industry standard rate. Upon application to and approval by the commission, the holder of a special permit granted pursuant to the bill may transmit simulcast horse races of the special running race meeting to any facility outside of New Jersey with which the special permit holder has entered into an agreement.

In addition, the bill, as amended, provides that the conduct of a steeplechase race meeting, which must not exceed two days in a calendar year, would not require approval by the legal voters of the county or the municipality where the race is to be held, but the governing body of the municipality may object to the issuance of the special permit. Prior to granting a special permit, the commission would be required to provide written notice to the governing body of the municipality where the special steeplechase race meeting is to be held. The governing body may object to the issuance of the special permit by passing a resolution within 30 days of receipt of the notice and by transmitting a copy of the resolution to the commission, in which case the special permit must not be issued. If the governing body does not object by passing a resolution within 30 days of receipt of the notice, the commission may grant the special permit.

The location of the special steeplechase race meeting is not a horse racetrack and it does not afford the owners of the location any right or privilege of the holder of a permit to conduct a horse race meeting, except as otherwise specifically provided in the bill.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No.2394 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1697 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

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## Governor Chris Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation

Wednesday, September 14, 2016   Tags: [Bill Action](#)



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Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie announced that he has taken action on the following legislation:

**BILL SIGNINGS:**

**A-227/S-331 (DeAngelo, Mukherji, Vainieri Huttle, McKeon/Scutari, Madden)** - Requires NJT to hold public hearing and provide notice prior to any curtailment of certain bus and rail services

**A-457/S-2345 (Mazzeo, Eustace, Gusciora, Holley/Scutari, Vitale) – w/STATEMENT** - Authorizes medical marijuana for qualifying patients with post-traumatic stress disorder

**A-1697/S-2394 (Dancer, Burzichelli, Bramnick, Caputo, Houghtaling/T. Kean, Bateman)** - Authorizes New Jersey Racing Commission to grant special horse racing permit for steeplechase races; allows wagering on such races

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