

## Prohibit Commercial Dog Racing

- HB 6048 removes from statute the 1976 authorization for live greyhound racing, an activity that no longer occurs in Connecticut. The bill has no effect on live horse racing or simulcast wagering of any kind.
- Connecticut racetracks have already voluntarily ended dog racing. However, unless the law is changed, dog racing could come back at any time without scrutiny.



### DOG RACING IS A MONEY LOSER FOR THE STATE AND RACETRACKS

- Across the country, greyhound racing is dying. Since 2001, forty-three dog tracks have closed, with three more facilities in two states winding down now. The American Greyhound Track Owners Association officially disbanded in 2019.
- Any remaining states with dog racing are losing money on the activity because regulatory costs far exceed any tax revenues generated.

### DOG RACING IS NOT POPULAR

- In Connecticut, gambling on dog racing declined for many years before finally ending in 2005. Between 1998 and 2004, wagering on live dog racing at Plainfield and Shoreline Star fell from \$29.8 million to \$12.3 million, a drop of 59%. Most of this money was returned to bettors in the form of winnings, as is the industry custom.
- Greyhound racing is illegal in 41 states and is ending without legislation in others. A 2018 voter-approved prohibition took effect in Florida, closing all 12 tracks in the very home of dog racing. Arkansas and Iowa tracks have publicly announced voluntary phase-outs by 2022. West Virginia, with two failing tracks, remains the only jurisdiction to embrace the activity.
- In the present day, dog racing licensees represent a parasite on other forms of gambling and divert funds needed by host states themselves. Before prohibiting dog racing, Rhode Island taxpayers were subsidizing greyhound breeders with over \$10 million in slot machine profits. Similarly, Arkansas currently diverts \$28 million of its annual casino profits and Florida track owners were losing \$34 million per annum by propping a dying industry. Connecticut can avoid this dilemma.

### GREYHOUND RACING IS CRUEL AND INHUMANE

- At commercial racetracks, greyhounds endure lives of confinement. At each facility, hundreds of dogs are kept in warehouse style kennels, in cages which are barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around.
- Greyhounds are frequently injured while racing. Dogs routinely suffer broken legs and other serious injuries. A racing dog dies every ten days in West Virginia.
- Young greyhounds are routinely trained with live lures, resulting in the death by mutilation of rabbits in the key breeding states of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

### GREYHOUND RACING GOES AGAINST MAINSTREAM VALUES

- Connecticut has a long history of leadership on humane issues, and commercial greyhound racing offends these important community values.