End Greyhound Simulcasting in Rhode Island (H.8217 and S. 3048)

GREY2K USA WORLDWIDE

What is greyhound simulcasting?

Dori of Rhode Island

- Simulcast wagering is a form of gambling where bettors wager remotely on races that take place elsewhere.
- Rhode Islanders bet $5.6 million on dog simulcast at one location in 2024: Twin River Casino. Since 2018 the amount bet on greyhound racing has declined by over 30%.

Rhode Island history and broader context

- On May 14, 2010, Governor Don Carcieri signed HB 8070, a bill to prohibit greyhound racing, into law.
- A federal bill prohibiting wagering on greyhound racing and the practice of live lure training has earned over 100 bipartisan co-sponsors. It is endorsed by Defenders of Animals, Humane Association of Northwestern Rhode Island, Smith & Agli's Potbelly Manor and West Warwick Angels.

Dog racing is unpopular

- Dog racing is illegal in 44 states. Florida voters passed a statewide prohibition by a 2-1 margin in 2018, closing twelve tracks. West Virginia is the last state to allow the activity, with two tracks propped up with subsidies.
- Foreign dog tracks view the American market as a commercial opportunity to broadcast their signals.
- Remote betting on greyhound racing represents under 40% of all simulcast betting at Twin River Casino.

States are curtailing greyhound simulcasting

- In the last four years, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Oregon have all passed laws to outlaw remote gambling on greyhound racing. When these new laws take effect, greyhound simulcasting will only be legal in 14 states.
- Almost all New England states have outlawed greyhound simulcasting. Massachusetts outlawed the activity in 2022, and New Hampshire lawmakers passed a greyhound simulcasting phase out last year. The only other New England state that allows greyhound simulcasting, Connecticut, will vote on a ban this Spring.

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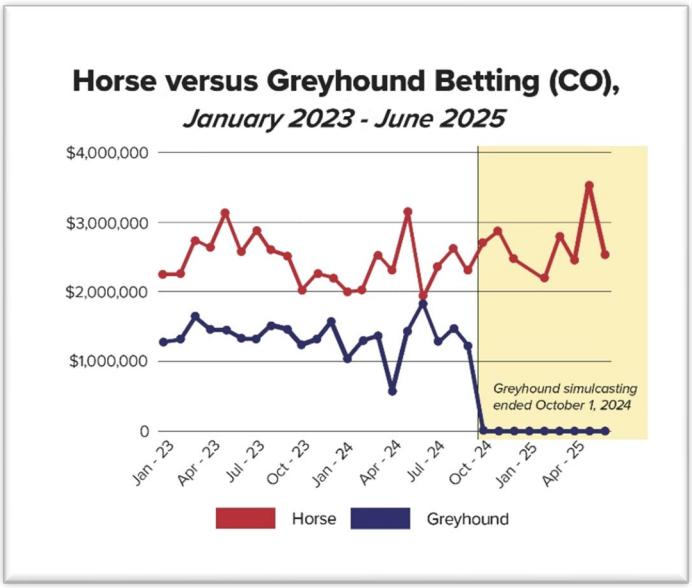
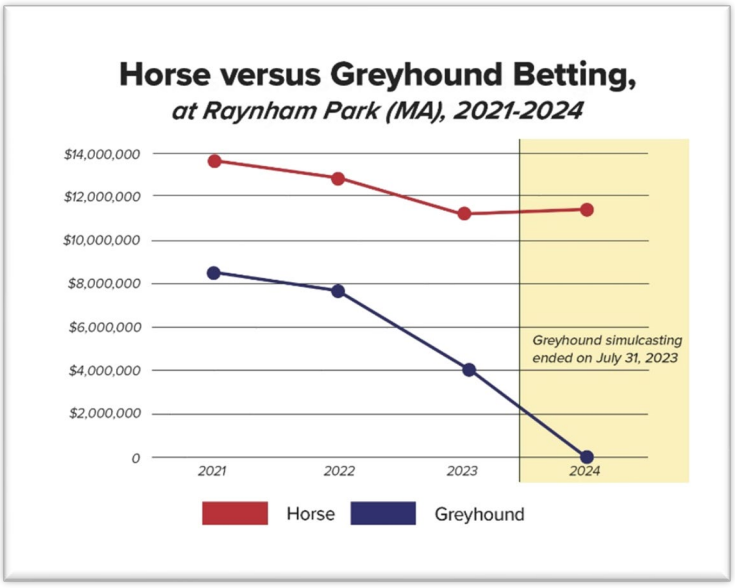
Greyhound racing is cruel and inhumane

- Racing greyhounds endure lives of confinement for 20-23 hours a day and many suffer serious injuries. Dogs suffer broken legs, broken backs, crushed skulls and some are even electrocuted.
- A recent eighteen-month investigation revealed a conspiracy of cruelty across four states in which rabbits are mauled to death during standard training practices for greyhounds.
- Since 2016, 300 greyhounds tested positive for cocaine, amphetamines and other drugs.

House Bill 8217 is a common sense proposal

- Ending dog simulcasting has no effect on horse racing and no jobs will be lost. Simulcast workers will still process horse bets.
- There is evidence that when greyhound simulcasting ends, some wagers that were previously being placed on dog races migrate to horse simulcasting. Horse simulcast wagering increased following greyhound simulcast phase outs in both Colorado and Massachusetts.
- Rhode Island received approximately $270,000 in revenue from dog simulcasting in 2024, based on an effective tax rate of 4.8%.
- This proposal aligns Rhode Island with the clear majority of US states, and our own policy which acknowledges that greyhound racing is cruel and dogs deserve to be treated with respect.