

## **GUIDANCE ON UNCLAIMED VOUCHERS – HISTORIC HORSE RACING**

We have been asked to provide guidance on the treatment of unclaimed vouchers related to historic horse racing activities. The legislature authorized historic horse racing by making several revisions to the existing horse racing statute, RSA 284. These revisions often involved adding historic horse racing to procedures that already existed for simulcast racing. This includes the treatment of unclaimed vouchers. RSA 284:31 reads as follows:

***RSA 284:31 Unclaimed Ticket Money.*** – *On or before January 31 of each year every person, association, or corporation conducting a race or race meet, whether live racing, simulcast racing, or historic horse racing hereunder shall pay to the state treasurer all moneys collected during the previous year of pari-mutuel pool tickets and vouchers which have not been redeemed. The books or records of said person, association, or corporation, which clearly show the tickets entitled to reimbursement in any given race, live, simulcast, or historic, shall be forwarded to the lottery commission. Such moneys shall become a part of the special fund established in RSA 284:21-j. The state treasurer shall pay the amount due on any ticket or voucher to the holder thereof from funds not otherwise appropriated upon an order from the lottery commission. Pari-mutuel tickets and vouchers which remain unclaimed after 11 months shall not be paid. Vouchers shall be remitted to the state treasurer on January 31 of the calendar year, 24 months after the year of the unclaimed voucher.*

Under current law, funds associated with unclaimed vouchers are to be paid to the State within the above specified time period. That said, we would be happy to discuss potential amendments to RSA 284:31 in future legislative sessions to clarify and refine the process for handling unclaimed funds associated with Historic Horse Racing.

Our agency has noticed that several rooms have a process in place to collect unclaimed vouchers. In some instances, the placement of a collection box and signage gives the impression that the funds from these vouchers are being donated to charity. Upon examination, however, we were unable to confirm that such a donation program existed. We have grave concerns regarding any actions that would dissuade patrons from cashing their vouchers or misleading them into believing that the vouchers are being donated to a charitable cause. If you are currently engaged in these activities, we encourage you to cease such actions immediately.

If you have any questions related to this guidance, please contact us.