



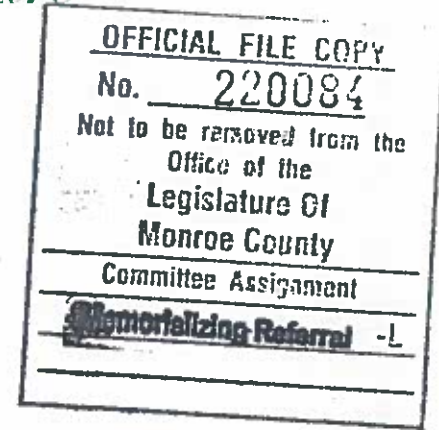
# *Monroe County Legislature*

## *Office of the President*

**SABRINA LAMAR**  
PRESIDENT

March 7, 2022

Monroe County Legislature  
406 Monroe County Office Building  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14614



**Re: Memorializing the New York State Legislature to Withdraw or Not Support A9395/S7855  
As It Relates to the Composition of the Western Regional Off Track Betting Corporation**

Honorable Legislators:

Western Region Off-Track Betting Corporation (WROTB) is an established corporation and is "a body corporate and politic constituting a public benefit corporation. WROTB is administered by a board of directors consisting of one member from each participating county who are appointed by the county governing body; WROTE has fifteen [15] Western New York county directors, as well as directors for the cities of Rochester and Buffalo.

Since its inception, WROTB has generated over \$250 million in operating and surcharge revenues to the taxpayers of those participating municipalities. Throughout its long history of serving the 15 counties and two cities that comprise the corporation, the enabling legislation provided that the Board of Directors of WROTB would be comprised of one representative from each of the 17 affected municipalities. In 1973, pursuant to such enabling legislation, the Monroe County Legislature passed enabling legislation, Resolution 241 of 1973 that authorized and empowered Monroe County to participate in the WROTB as had been created by the state. Pursuant to Resolution 241 of 1973 specifically provided that it was "subject to permissive referendum and shall become effective in accordance with Section 24 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York."

Bills A9395/S7855, an act to "amend the racing, pari mutuel wagering and breeding law, in relation to the membership of the Board of Directors of the Western Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation," would violate nearly 50 years of statutory precedent in the statutory formation of WROTB and attempt to destroy the equal representation held by the local municipalities, including Monroe County, who have contributed to the success of WROTB. In 2021, Batavia Downs, with more than 625,000 attendees, wagering nearly \$700 million this past year alone, lead to record earnings distributions for the 17 municipalities that have come to rely on their WROTB distributions to balance their local budgets while reducing the property tax burden for businesses and homeowners. Senate Bill S7855 not only violates Resolution 241 of 1973, adopted by this Honorable Body, but will remove Monroe County's equal and fair representation and have a destabilizing effect upon the organizational structure of WROTB. Therefore, I ask you to join me in calling upon the New York State Legislature to Withdraw or Not Support A9395/S7855 as it relates to the composition of the Western Regional Off Track Betting Corporation.

Sincerely,

Sabrina LaMar  
Monroe County Legislature  
President

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