

## Table games will hurt horse racing in region

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A vote for table games is a vote to kill local horse racing. The percentage allocated to horsemen's purses in the table games bill will effectively cut their purses and end jobs for local horsemen. The slots bill allocates \$14 per \$100 of earned revenue. The table games bill allocates 60 cents. That's a 96 percent reduction.

Penn National touts that millions will be added to purses - without factoring an estimated 40 percent decline in slots revenue due to competition from Maryland. In addition, studies show that table gambling cannibalizes slots play by about 10 percent. Together, these could mean a 50 percent decline in slots revenue. The paltry 60 cents from table games will hardly make up that loss.

The stark reality of what has happened at Mountaineer Park should serve as a preview of things to come at Charles Town. Since table games were introduced at the northern racino two years ago, purses have been slashed 26 percent and races have been cut from 10 to nine per day.

Will Penn National soon request that the backside, or horse stables, be closed at Charles Town like it has requested at Raceway Park in Ohio?

By writing races that favor out-of-state horses over local ones, are it is positioning itself to become a "ship-in" facility that ships in out-of-state horses?

If so, it will kill the local horse industry.

I used to work at Charles Town Races and I would hate to see it close.

Vote no to table games on Dec. 5.