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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
BUSINESS REGULATION
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: HB 631
RELATING TO: Pari-Mutuel Wagering/Greyhound Adoptions
SPONSOR(S): Representative(s) Gottlieb
TIED BILL(S): None

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COUNCIL(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) BUSINESS REGULATION
 - (2) COUNCIL FOR SMARTER GOVERNMENT
 - (3)
 - (4)
 - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUING STATUTES, OR TO BE CONSTRUED AS AFFECTING, DEFINING, LIMITING, CONTROLLING, SPECIFYING, CLARIFYING, OR MODIFYING ANY LEGISLATION OR STATUTE.

The bill requires greyhound racing permitholders to provide greyhound adoption booths at their racing facilities. The bill requires and specifies the criteria by which greyhound-racing permitholders are to provide information at each facility concerning the adoption of a greyhound including that the racing program contain adoption information and identify greyhounds in a race that will become available for adoption.

Greyhound racing permitholders are authorized to hold an additional charity day, designated as "Greyhound Adopt-A-Pet Day," and to use the profits from the charity day to support activities promoting greyhound adoptions.

The bill defines the term "bona fide organization that promotes or encourages the adoption of greyhounds" and requires that such organization provide sterilization of greyhounds by a licensed veterinarian before relinquishing custody of the greyhound to the adopter.

The bill is not expected to have a significant fiscal impact on state revenue expenditures or collections.

The bill provides that the act will take effect July 1, 2002.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

The bill places an additional statutory requirement on greyhound permitholders by requiring the establishment of greyhound adoption booths at their licensed pari-mutuel facilities.

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Section 550.1647, F.S., authorizes a tax credit for greyhound permitholders for unclaimed prizes [escheats/outs] that are paid to the state in an amount equivalent to the amount that was remitted to the state in the prior fiscal year. In addition, this section requires the greyhound permitholder to pay an amount that equals at least 10% of that credit to a bona fide organization that promotes or encourages the adoption of greyhounds.

Pursuant to s. 550.0351, F.S., the Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering (division) may authorize each horseracing, dogracing, and jai alai permitholder up to five charity racing or scholarship days in addition to the regular racing days authorized by law. The section provides that the total profits from charity performances are paid to qualified beneficiaries selected by the permitholder. In determining profit, subsection (5) of this statute authorizes permitholders to distribute as proceeds only the amount equal to the state tax that would otherwise be paid to the state if the charity day performance were conducted as a regular or matinee performance.

According to the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, since charity performances were authorized in 1985, nearly \$45 million has been distributed to charitable organizations. During FY 2000-2001, pari-mutuel permitholders conducted approximately 218 charity/scholarship performances and the distribution to charitable organizations exceeded \$3 million.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill requires each greyhound permitholder to provide for a greyhound-adoption booth to be located at the facility and operated on weekends by personnel or volunteers from a bona fide organization that promotes or encourages the adoption of greyhounds pursuant to s. 550.1647, F.S. The term "weekends" includes the hours during which live greyhound racing is conducted on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. The bill requires that information pamphlets and adoption applications be provided to the public upon request.

The bill further requires kennel operators and greyhound owners to provide to the permitholders information that a greyhound is available for adoption and that the racing program contain specific adoption information. Permitholders are required to post adoption information at conspicuous locations throughout the dogracing facility and must allow greyhounds to be walked through the facility to publicize greyhound adoption.

In addition to the charity days authorized under section 550.0351, F.S., a greyhound permitholder may fund the greyhound-adoption program by holding a charity racing day designated as "Greyhound Adopt-A-Pet Day." The profits from this charity day performance must be placed into a fund and used to support activities at that facility that promote the adoption of greyhounds. The division is authorized to adopt rules for administering the fund.

The bill specifies that the proceeds from the Greyhound Adopt-A-Pet Day charity day may not be used when calculating the amount to be paid to a greyhound organization pursuant to s. 550.1647, F.S.

Upon violation of these provisions by a permitholder or licensee, the division may impose a penalty as provided in s. 550.0251(10), F.S.¹ The bill specifies that a penalty imposed under this subsection will not exclude a prosecution for cruelty to animals for any other criminal act.

The bill amends s. 550.1647, F.S., clarifying that the term "bona fide organization that promotes or encourages the adoption of greyhounds" means any organization that provides evidence of compliance with ch. 496, F.S., and possesses a valid exemption from federal income tax issued by the Internal Revenue Service. The bill also amends s. 550.1647, F.S., to require that such organization provide sterilization of greyhounds by a licensed veterinarian before relinquishing custody of the greyhound to the adopter. The fee for sterilization may be included in the cost of the adoption.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. Creates an undesignated section of Florida Statutes, and requires each greyhound racing permitholder to provide a greyhound adoption booth at the facility on weekends when live racing is conducted. This section also authorizes a greyhound permitholder to conduct a charity racing day designated as "Greyhound Adopt-A-Pet Day" and requires that the funds from this charity event be placed into an account which is used to support activities at the facility that promote the adoption of greyhounds.

This section also specifies requirements for information pamphlets and postings, race program content, notifications, allowances for greyhounds to be walked through the facility to publicize the adoption program, and provides penalties for violations.

Section 2. Amends s. 550.1647, F.S., to define the term "bona fide organization that promotes or encourages the adoption of greyhounds" and limits the applicability of the definition to s. 550.1647. This section also requires the organization to provide sterilization of the greyhounds by a licensed veterinarian before relinquishing custody of the animal and authorizes the fee for sterilization to be included in the cost of adoption.

Section 3. Provides that the act will take effect July 1, 2002.

¹ Section 550.0251(10), F.S., authorizes the imposition of an administrative fine of not more than \$1,000 for each count or separate offense and authorizes the division to suspend or revoke a permit, a pari-mutuel license, or an occupational license.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

According to the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the "Greyhound Adopt-A-Pet-Day" could possibly reduce revenues to the Pari-Mutuel Wagering Trust Fund by one day's receipts, which would equal approximately \$150,000. The division notes, however, that such reduction would only occur in the event that each facility reduced one regularly scheduled racing day to accommodate the "Greyhound Adopt-A-Pet-Day."

2. Expenditures:

The Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, indicates that the additional audit and inspection responsibilities provided for in this bill can be accomplished with existing personnel and within the existing budget.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Permitholders will incur costs associated with the setup and operation of the greyhound adoption booths. The division estimates, however, that proceeds from the "Greyhound Adopt-A-Pet-Day" will defray such costs. In addition, many greyhound permitholders already provide space for adoption booth and/or actively participate in greyhound adoption programs.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None noted.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill authorizes the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering to implement rules for the operation of a fund established to receive the proceeds from the Greyhound Adopt-A-Pet Day charity day.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

Technical

The definition for a "bona fide organization that promotes or encourages the adoption of greyhounds" in section 2 of the bill, limits its applicability to s. 550.1647, F.S. Since this term is also used in Section 1 of the bill, the committee may wish to amend the bill so that the definition applies to the entire chapter.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS REGULATION:

Prepared by:

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M. Paul Liepshutz