

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 181 CS

Pari-mutuel Permitholders

SPONSOR(S): Cretul

TIED BILLS:

IDEN. /SIM. BILLS: SB 342

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Business Regulation Committee</u>	<u>17 Y, 0 N, w/CS</u>	<u>Morris</u>	<u>Liepshutz</u>
2) <u>Finance & Tax Committee</u>	<u>5 Y, 4 N, w/CS</u>	<u>Levin</u>	<u>Diez-Arguelles</u>
3) <u>Commerce Council</u>	<u>8 Y, 0 N, w/CS</u>	<u>Morris</u>	<u>Bohannon</u>
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Licensed pari-mutuel permitholders are authorized to conduct intertrack wagering under specified conditions. The term "intertrack wagering" (ITW) means wagering on events broadcast between pari-mutuel facilities located within the state, including the rebroadcast of a simulcast signal. Current law requires a jai alai permitholder to operate a full schedule of live jai alai performances in order to participate in intertrack wagering.

This bill reduces the number of required live performances that constitute a full schedule from 100 to 40 for any jai alai permitholder whose total wagers received were less than \$4 million per year for at least 2 consecutive years. An exception to the 40 live performances requirement is made for jai alai permitholders who conduct slot machine gambling in its facility; these permit holders must conduct a combination of at least 150 days of performances during the preceding year.

The bill includes a hold-harmless provision for state revenues that requires jai alai permitholders taking advantage of this reduction to pay the same amount of tax as they paid during the last year in which they conducted at least 100 live performances. Therefore, the bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on state revenue collections.

The bill requires approval of other permitholders in proximity of a quarterhorse permitholder before the quarterhorse permitholder could substitute thoroughbred races or take intertrack wagering signals.

The bill also permits the transfer of cardroom licenses. No referendum election is required for transfer if the permitholder relocates its permit within the same county as its existing pari-mutuel facility.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2005.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

The House Principles do not appear to be implicated in this bill.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill amends s. 550.02(11), F.S., to modify the definition of what constitutes a full schedule of live performances for jai alai permitholders.

Intertrack wagering is pari-mutuel wagering on broadcasts of a horse or greyhound race or jai alai game transmitted from and performed live at, or a simulcast signal rebroadcast from, another in-state pari-mutuel facility. Under present law in order for a licensed jai alai permitholder to participate in intertrack wagering [ITW] the permitholder must conduct a full schedule of live performances during the previous year [see s.550.615(2), F.S.]. If the permitholder conducts a full schedule of live performances in the previous year it may conduct ITW on any class of pari-mutuel race or game for the entire ensuing year. For a jai alai permitholder a "full schedule" of live performances means that the permitholder must conduct a combination of at least 100 live evening or matinee performances. In the pari-mutuel statute a "performance" does not refer to one single jai alai game but rather means "a series of events, races, or games performed consecutively under a single admission charge." A jai alai permitholder may conduct both a matinee and evening performance in one calendar day.

This bill reduces the number of required live performances from 100 to 40 for any jai alai permitholder, whose total wagers received were less than \$4 million per year for at least 2 consecutive years. An exception is made to this exception for jai alai permitholders who conduct slot machine gambling at its facility; these permitholders must conduct a combination of at least 150 live performances during the preceding year. With this reduction in the number of required live performances, it is possible that a season of 40 live evening and matinee performances could be completed in one month.

This bill contains a provision ensuring that there will be no reduction in state revenue as a result of the reduction in the number of live performances. Section 550.09511, F.S., is amended to require that any permitholder taking advantage of this reduction in live performances will pay to the state the same aggregate amount of daily license fees, admissions tax, and tax on live handle as that permitholder paid to the state during the most recent prior year in which the permitholder conducted at least 100 live performances. In FY 2003-04, jai alai permitholders paid a total of \$630,178 in tax revenue into the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund.

The bill requires approval of other permitholders in proximity, 50 miles, of a quarterhorse permitholder before the quarterhorse permitholder could substitute thoroughbred races or take intertrack wagering signals.

The bill also permits the transfer of cardroom licenses. No referendum election is required for transfer if the permitholder relocates its permit within the same county as its existing pari-mutuel facility.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2005.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 amends the definition of "full schedule of live racing or games" in s. 550.002(11), F.S.

Section 2 creates a new subsection (4) in s. 550.09511, F.S., relating to jai alai taxes and fees.

Section 3 amends s. 550.334, F.S., to require approval of other permitholders in proximity of a quarterhorse permitholder before the quarterhorse permitholder could substitute thoroughbred races or take intertrack wagering signals.

Section 4 amends transferability of cardroom licenses in s. 849.086, F.S.,

Section 5 provides an effective date of July 1, 2005.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

In FY 2003-04, the seven operating jai alai permitholders paid \$630,178 in state tax revenue into the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund. This legislation provides that any permitholder taking advantage of the reduction in the number of live performances must continue to pay the same amount of tax as the permitholder paid to the state during the last year in which they conducted at least 100 live performances. Therefore, the bill is not expected to have an impact on tax collections.

2. Expenditures:

Not anticipated to be significant.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

This bill is not expected to impact local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This bill is not expected to require any expenditure by local governments.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Florida is the only state in the nation to conduct pari-mutuel wagering on live jai alai performances. Some players perform at more than one jai alai facility but must also supplement their income by taking other forms of employment. A spokesperson for the jai alai players association expressed the concern that a reduction in the number of live performances allowed for in this legislation will adversely impact wages paid to jai alai players. Further, the spokesperson expressed the concern that a reduction in the number of live performances will make it difficult to attract quality players from Spain or other nations for a shortened meet.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require counties or cities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate. This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

NA.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

On February 8, 2005, the Committee on Business Regulation adopted two amendments to HB 181 and reported the bill favorably [17 yeas; 0 nays] with committee substitute.

The first amendment by Representative Attkisson added a provision restricting the allowable reduction in the number of live performances to only those jai alai permitholders that do not operate slot machines. If operation of slot machines becomes available to a jai alai permitholder and the permitholder chooses to conduct slot machine gambling, the permitholder will be required to conduct a minimum of 100 performances annually in order to continue to qualify to conduct intertrack wagering.

The second amendment by Representative Greenstein added a provision that requires jai alai permitholders holding inactive permits to pay a \$10,000 fee annually. Failure to pay the annual fee will result in the permit becoming void and escheating to the state. Revenues collected from this fee are to be distributed by the Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering jointly to the National Association of Jai Alai Frontons and the International Jai Alai Players Association and used to promote the professional sport of jai alai in the state. The amendment allows the Division to enact rules necessary for the distribution of the proceeds.

On April 12, 2005 the Finance and Tax Committee adopted 4 amendments. Amendment 1 allows the transfer of cardroom licenses under certain conditions without a referendum election. Amendment 2 allows permitholders who have conducted 100 live performances for at least 10 years after December 31, 1992, and whose present handle on live jai alai has been less than \$4 million per state fiscal year for at least 2 consecutive years, to reduce the number of live performances from 100 to 40. Amendment 3 provides an exception to the 40 live performances for jai alai permitholders who operate slot machines; these frontons must conduct a combination of at least 150 performances. Amendment 4 requires the funds from inactive jai alai frontons to be deposited in the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund.

On April 21, 2005 the Commerce Council adopted a Council Substitute which removed the provisions imposing a \$10,000 annual fee on inactive jai alai permitholders. The CS requires approval of other permitholders in proximity, 50 miles, of a quarterhorse permitholder before the quarterhorse permitholder could substitute thoroughbred races or take intertrack wagering signals.