

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to thoroughbred permitholders;  
 3           amending s. 550.01215, F.S.; authorizing thoroughbred  
 4           permitholders to elect not to conduct live racing or  
 5           games; specifying that such permitholders retain  
 6           certain permits, eligibility, exemptions, and  
 7           licenses; providing that certain permitholders are  
 8           eligible to be a guest track, amending ss. 551.104 and  
 9           849.086, F.S.; revising specified requirements for  
 10          thoroughbred permitholders who have certain licenses;  
 11          providing an effective date.

12  
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 15           **Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section**  
 16 **550.01215, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

17           550.01215 License application; periods of operation;  
 18 license fees; bond.—

19           (1) Each permitholder shall annually, during the period  
 20 between January 15 and February 4, file in writing with the  
 21 commission its application for an operating license for a pari-  
 22 mutuel facility for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering during  
 23 the next state fiscal year, including intertrack and simulcast  
 24 race wagering. Each application for live performances must  
 25 specify the number, dates, and starting times of all live

26 | performances that the permitholder intends to conduct. It must  
27 | also specify which performances will be conducted as charity or  
28 | scholarship performances.

29 | (b)1. A greyhound permitholder may not conduct live  
30 | racing. A jai alai permitholder, thoroughbred permitholder,  
31 | harness horse racing permitholder, or quarter horse racing  
32 | permitholder may elect not to conduct live racing or games. A  
33 | ~~thoroughbred permitholder must conduct live racing.~~ A greyhound  
34 | permitholder, jai alai permitholder, thoroughbred permitholder,  
35 | harness horse racing permitholder, or quarter horse racing  
36 | permitholder that does not conduct live racing or games retains  
37 | its permit; is a pari-mutuel facility as defined in s.  
38 | 550.002(23); if such permitholder has been issued a slot machine  
39 | license, the facility where such permit is located remains an  
40 | eligible facility as defined in s. 551.102(4), continues to be  
41 | eligible for a slot machine license pursuant to s. 551.104(3),  
42 | and is exempt from ss. 551.104(10) ~~ss. 551.104(4)(e) and (10)~~  
43 | and 551.114(2); is eligible, but not required, to be a guest  
44 | track and, if the permitholder is a harness horse racing  
45 | permitholder or a thoroughbred permitholder, to be a host track  
46 | for purposes of intertrack wagering and simulcasting pursuant to  
47 | ss. 550.3551, 550.615, 550.625, and 550.6305; and remains  
48 | eligible for a cardroom license.

49 | 2. A permitholder or licensee may not conduct live  
50 | greyhound racing or dogracing in connection with any wager for

51 money or any other thing of value in the state. The commission  
 52 may deny, suspend, or revoke any permit or license under this  
 53 chapter if a permitholder or licensee conducts live greyhound  
 54 racing or dogracing in violation of this subparagraph. In  
 55 addition to, or in lieu of, denial, suspension, or revocation of  
 56 such permit or license, the commission may impose a civil  
 57 penalty of up to \$5,000 against the permitholder or licensee for  
 58 a violation of this subparagraph. All penalties imposed and  
 59 collected must be deposited with the Chief Financial Officer to  
 60 the credit of the General Revenue Fund.

61 **Section 2. Paragraphs (d) through (j) of subsection (4) of**  
 62 **section 551.104, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as**  
 63 **paragraphs (c) through (i), respectively, and paragraph (c) of**  
 64 **subsection (4) and paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of that**  
 65 **section are amended, to read:**

66 551.104 License to conduct slot machine gaming.—

67 (4) As a condition of licensure and to maintain continued  
 68 authority for the conduct of slot machine gaming, the slot  
 69 machine licensee shall:

70 ~~(c) If a thoroughbred permitholder, conduct no fewer than~~  
 71 ~~a full schedule of live racing or games as defined in s.~~  
 72 ~~550.002(10). A permitholder's responsibility to conduct live~~  
 73 ~~races or games shall be reduced by the number of races or games~~  
 74 ~~that could not be conducted due to the direct result of fire,~~  
 75 ~~strike, war, hurricane, pandemic, or other disaster or event~~

76 | ~~beyond the control of the permit holder.~~

77 |       (10) (a)1. If a thoroughbred permit holder elects to conduct  
78 | live racing, then no slot machine license or renewal thereof  
79 | shall be issued to an applicant holding a permit under chapter  
80 | 550 to conduct pari-mutuel wagering meets of thoroughbred racing  
81 | unless the applicant has on file with the commission a binding  
82 | written agreement between the applicant and the Florida  
83 | Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Inc.,  
84 | governing the payment of purses on live thoroughbred races  
85 | conducted at the licensee's pari-mutuel facility. In addition,  
86 | no slot machine license or renewal thereof shall be issued to  
87 | such an applicant unless the applicant has on file with the  
88 | commission a binding written agreement between the applicant and  
89 | the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, Inc., governing  
90 | the payment of breeders', stallion, and special racing awards on  
91 | live thoroughbred races conducted at the licensee's pari-mutuel  
92 | facility. The agreement governing purses and the agreement  
93 | governing awards may direct the payment of such purses and  
94 | awards from revenues generated by any wagering or gaming the  
95 | applicant is authorized to conduct under Florida law. All purses  
96 | and awards shall be subject to the terms of chapter 550. All  
97 | sums for breeders', stallion, and special racing awards shall be  
98 | remitted monthly to the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders'  
99 | Association, Inc., for the payment of awards subject to the  
100 | administrative fee authorized in s. 550.2625(3).

101           2. No slot machine license or renewal thereof shall be  
102 issued to an applicant holding a permit under chapter 550 to  
103 conduct pari-mutuel wagering meets of quarter horse racing  
104 unless the applicant has on file with the commission a binding  
105 written agreement between the applicant and the Florida Quarter  
106 Horse Racing Association or the association representing a  
107 majority of the horse owners and trainers at the applicant's  
108 eligible facility, governing the payment of purses on live  
109 quarter horse races conducted at the licensee's pari-mutuel  
110 facility. The agreement governing purses may direct the payment  
111 of such purses from revenues generated by any wagering or gaming  
112 the applicant is authorized to conduct under Florida law. All  
113 purses shall be subject to the terms of chapter 550.

114           **Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section**  
115 **849.086, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

116           849.086 Cardrooms authorized.—

117           (5) LICENSE REQUIRED; APPLICATION; FEES.—No person may  
118 operate a cardroom in this state unless such person holds a  
119 valid cardroom license issued pursuant to this section.

120           (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pari-  
121 mutuel permitholder, other than a permitholder issued a permit  
122 pursuant to s. 550.3345 or a purchaser, transferee, or assignee  
123 holding a valid permit for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering  
124 approved pursuant to s. 550.054(15)(a), may not be issued a  
125 license for the operation of a cardroom if the permitholder did

126 | not hold an operating license for the conduct of pari-mutuel  
127 | wagering for fiscal year 2020-2021. In order for an initial  
128 | cardroom license to be issued to a thoroughbred permitholder  
129 | issued a permit pursuant to s. 550.3345, the applicant must have  
130 | requested, as part of its pari-mutuel annual license  
131 | application, to conduct at least a full schedule of live racing.  
132 | ~~In order for a cardroom license to be renewed by a thoroughbred~~  
133 | ~~permitholder, the applicant must have requested, as part of its~~  
134 | ~~pari-mutuel annual license application, to conduct at least 90~~  
135 | ~~percent of the total number of live performances conducted by~~  
136 | ~~such permitholder during either the state fiscal year in which~~  
137 | ~~its initial cardroom license was issued or the state fiscal year~~  
138 | ~~immediately prior thereto if the permitholder ran at least a~~  
139 | ~~full schedule of live racing or games in the prior year.~~

140 |       **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.