

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to pari-mutuel wagering; amending s.
3 550.01215, 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; requiring certain
9 thoroughbred permitholders to continue to offer live
10 racing until providing a specific notification to the
11 commission; providing notice requirements; providing
12 applicability; amending s. 550.0951, F.S.; removing a
13 requirement for live racing for purposes of certain
14 taxes; amending s. 550.26165, F.S.; providing
15 legislative purpose; requiring certain moneys to be
16 used for a specified purpose; requiring awards be
17 given at a uniform rate pursuant to a specified plan;
18 requiring such plan be published in the Florida
19 Administrative Register by a date certain; authorizing
20 the commission to use flexibility in the development
21 and implementation of a certain program; providing the
22 source of amounts available for distribution;
23 requiring permitholders to make certain payments by a
24 specified date; revising thoroughbred breeders'
25 awards; providing eligibility requirements for awards;

26 requiring a specified association to maintain certain
27 records; authorizing such association to require a fee
28 for specified services; requiring purses be funded in
29 a specified manner and paid at a specified rate;
30 requiring awards to be paid by a certain time;
31 requiring the Florida Gaming Control Commission
32 maintain certain records; requiring a certain
33 association to remit to the state specified funds
34 immediately; requiring such funds to be placed in a
35 specified account; authorizing awards to be paid for
36 races in other states or countries; requiring the
37 commission to adopt certain rules; providing
38 underpayment requirements for permitholders;
39 authorizing the commission to adopt emergency rules;
40 repealing s. 550.2625, F.S., relating to Horseracing,
41 minimum purse requirement, Florida breeders' and
42 owners' awards; amending s. 550.3345, F.S.; revising
43 composition of a certain board of directors; revising
44 provisions related to the conversion of quarter horse
45 permits to a limited thoroughbred permit; authorizing
46 such permit locations to be moved to a licensed
47 thoroughbred training center that meets certain
48 requirements; providing for the licensing of
49 thoroughbred training centers; prohibiting such
50 centers from being issued certain licenses; providing

51 an exception; authorizing the commission to adopt
52 rules for such licensing and oversight; providing for
53 board membership of the not-for-profit corporation;
54 providing legislative findings; preempting certain
55 local laws, charters, ordinances, resolutions,
56 regulations, policies, initiatives, or referendums;
57 providing application; amending s. 550.3551, F.S.;
58 revising the entity responsible for approving changes
59 to live racing minimums; repealing s. 550.625, F.S.,
60 relating to Intertrack wagering, purses, and breeders'
61 awards; amending s. 550.6305, F.S.; revising the
62 entity to be paid certain breeders' awards; amending
63 s. 551.104, F.S.; revising specified requirements for
64 thoroughbred permitholders who have certain slot
65 machine licenses; amending s. 571.265, F.S.; defining
66 the term "commission"; revising entities receiving
67 certain funds from the Department of Agriculture and
68 Consumer Services; providing for use of such funds;
69 providing requirements to receive such funds;
70 authorizing the department to adjust certain funding
71 caps beginning a certain breeding season; authorizing
72 the department to adopt emergency rules; providing
73 legislative necessity; exempting the department from
74 certain rulemaking requirements; authorizing a certain
75 association to charge a specified registration fee for

76 program participants; requiring a certain association
 77 to make to the commission a certain report annually by
 78 a date certain and include specified information;
 79 authorizing alternate distribution if certain
 80 permitholders no longer offer live racing; amending s.
 81 849.086, F.S.; revising requirements for certain
 82 permitholders who have cardroom licenses; amending ss.
 83 550.0351, 550.2614, 550.26165, 550.2633, and
 84 550.26352, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
 85 by the act; providing an effective date.

86

87 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

88

89 **Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section**
 90 **550.01215, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

91 550.01215 License application; periods of operation;
 92 license fees; bond.—

93 (1) Each permitholder shall annually, during the period
 94 between January 15 and February 4, file in writing with the
 95 commission its application for an operating license for a pari-
 96 mutuel facility for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering during
 97 the next state fiscal year, including intertrack and simulcast
 98 race wagering. Each application for live performances must
 99 specify the number, dates, and starting times of all live
 100 performances that the permitholder intends to conduct. It must

101 also specify which performances will be conducted as charity or
102 scholarship performances.

103 (b)1. A greyhound permitholder may not conduct live
104 racing. A jai alai permitholder, thoroughbred permitholder,
105 harness horse racing permitholder, or quarter horse racing
106 permitholder may elect not to conduct live racing or games. ~~A~~
107 ~~thoroughbred permitholder must conduct live racing.~~ A greyhound
108 permitholder, jai alai permitholder, thoroughbred permitholder,
109 harness horse racing permitholder, or quarter horse racing
110 permitholder that does not conduct live racing or games retains
111 its permit; is a pari-mutuel facility as defined in s.
112 550.002(23); if such permitholder has been issued a slot machine
113 license, the facility where such permit is located remains an
114 eligible facility as defined in s. 551.102(4), continues to be
115 eligible for a slot machine license pursuant to s. 551.104(3),
116 and is exempt from ss. 551.104(10) ~~ss. 551.104(4)(c) and (10)~~
117 and 551.114(2); is eligible, but not required, to be a guest
118 track and, if the permitholder is a harness horse racing
119 permitholder or a thoroughbred permitholder, to be a host track
120 for purposes of intertrack wagering and simulcasting pursuant to
121 ss. 550.3551, 550.615, ~~550.625,~~ and 550.6305; and remains
122 eligible for a cardroom license. A thoroughbred permitholder who
123 operates a slot machine facility or cardroom shall offer a full
124 schedule of live racing until such permitholder notifies the
125 commission that it will no longer offer live racing. Notice

126 under this subparagraph is not valid unless it is delivered on
 127 or after July 1, 2027, and contains the date on which the
 128 permitholder will no longer offer live racing, which may not be
 129 earlier than 3 years after the date of the notice. The
 130 permitholder is not required to deliver such notice when
 131 relocating under s. 550.3345.

132 2. A permitholder or licensee may not conduct live
 133 greyhound racing or dogracing in connection with any wager for
 134 money or any other thing of value in the state. The commission
 135 may deny, suspend, or revoke any permit or license under this
 136 chapter if a permitholder or licensee conducts live greyhound
 137 racing or dogracing in violation of this subparagraph. In
 138 addition to, or in lieu of, denial, suspension, or revocation of
 139 such permit or license, the commission may impose a civil
 140 penalty of up to \$5,000 against the permitholder or licensee for
 141 a violation of this subparagraph. All penalties imposed and
 142 collected must be deposited with the Chief Financial Officer to
 143 the credit of the General Revenue Fund.

144 **Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section**
 145 **550.0951, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

146 550.0951 Payment of daily license fee and taxes;
 147 penalties.—

148 (3) TAX ON HANDLE.—Each permitholder shall pay a tax on
 149 contributions to pari-mutuel pools, the aggregate of which is
 150 hereinafter referred to as "handle," on races or games conducted

151 by the permitholder. The tax is imposed daily and is based on
152 the total contributions to all pari-mutuel pools conducted
153 during the daily performance. If a permitholder conducts more
154 than one performance daily, the tax is imposed on each
155 performance separately.

156 (c)1. The tax on handle for intertrack wagering is 2.0
157 percent of the handle if the host track is a horse track, 3.3
158 percent if the host track is a harness track, 5.5 percent if the
159 host track is a dog track, and 7.1 percent if the host track is
160 a jai alai fronton. The tax on handle for intertrack wagering is
161 0.5 percent if the host track and the guest track are
162 thoroughbred permitholders or if the guest track is located
163 outside the market area of the host track and within the market
164 area of a thoroughbred permitholder ~~currently conducting a live~~
165 ~~race meet~~. The tax on handle for intertrack wagering on
166 rebroadcasts of simulcast thoroughbred horseraces is 2.4 percent
167 of the handle and 1.5 percent of the handle for intertrack
168 wagering on rebroadcasts of simulcast harness horseraces. The
169 tax shall be deposited into the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund.

170 2. The tax on handle for intertrack wagers accepted by any
171 dog track located in an area of the state in which there are
172 only three permitholders, all of which are greyhound
173 permitholders, located in three contiguous counties, from any
174 greyhound permitholder also located within such area or any dog
175 track or jai alai fronton located as specified in s. 550.615(6)

176 or (9), on races or games received from the same class of
177 permitholder located within the same market area is 3.9 percent
178 if the host facility is a greyhound permitholder and, if the
179 host facility is a jai alai permitholder, the rate shall be 6.1
180 percent except that it shall be 2.3 percent on handle at such
181 time as the total tax on intertrack handle paid to the
182 commission by the permitholder during the current state fiscal
183 year exceeds the total tax on intertrack handle paid to the
184 commission by the permitholder during the 1992-1993 state fiscal
185 year.

186 **Section 3. Section 550.26165, Florida Statutes, is amended**
187 **to read:**

188 (Substantial rewording of section.

189 See s. 550.26165, F.S., for present text.)

190 550.26165 Breeders' incentives, purses and special racing
191 awards plan.-

192 (1) A purse structure for racehorse owners which is
193 competitive with the purses offered in other states is an
194 important factor in attracting the entry of well-bred horses in
195 race meets in this state. The availability of awards to the
196 owners and the breeders of Florida-bred racehorses, including
197 the owners of Florida-based stallions, is an important factor
198 used to incentivize the purchase of Florida-bred horses at
199 auction and to induce well-bred stallions and mares to engage in
200 breeding activities in the state. In turn, the availability of

201 these financial awards help to ensure the continuing viability
202 of the thoroughbred industry in the state while simultaneously
203 producing maximum revenues from licensed racing activity for the
204 state and the counties. The purpose of this section is to
205 encourage the agricultural activity of owning, breeding, and
206 racing Florida-bred racehorses.

207 (2) Moneys dedicated in this chapter for use as purse
208 supplements to the owners of Florida-bred racehorses as
209 breeders' awards and stallion awards are to be used to
210 incentivize the ownership and the breeding of registered
211 Florida-bred horses. Such awards shall be given at a uniform
212 rate pursuant to an annual plan developed by the commission. The
213 annual plan shall be developed with input from the Department of
214 Agriculture and Consumer Services, stakeholders in the
215 thoroughbred racing and breeding industry, and the general
216 public and published in the Florida Administrative Register by
217 January 1 for implementation during the next licensed racing
218 year. The awards programs described in this chapter must be
219 responsive to rapidly changing incentive programs in other
220 states and to accomplish this goal, the commission is authorized
221 to use flexibility in the design and implementation of a
222 competitive awards programs. The plan approved by the commission
223 shall allocate, for distribution by category, breeders' awards,
224 stallion awards, and Florida-bred purse supplements available
225 for distribution in the ensuing licensing year. The amount

226 available for distribution shall be derived from the following
227 sources:

228 (a) A minimum amount equal to 0.955 percent on all pari-
229 mutuel pools conducted on all wagering during each race meet,
230 including any intertrack race taken pursuant to ss. 550.615-
231 550.6305 or any interstate simulcast taken pursuant to s.
232 550.3551(3). This paragraph also applies to all Breeder's Cup
233 races conducted outside this state taken pursuant to s.
234 550.3551(3).

235 (b) A minimum amount equal to 3.475 percent of the gross
236 revenue derived by the thoroughbred permitholder when serving as
237 the host track for wagering on any race originating live in this
238 state which is broadcast out-of-state to any location at which
239 wagers are accepted pursuant to s. 550.3551(2).

240
241 The permitholder conducting the races shall make the payments
242 authorized in this section to the commission for deposit into
243 the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund. The permitholder shall
244 remit to the commission such payments by the 5th day of each
245 calendar month for such sums accruing during the preceding
246 calendar month and provide any corresponding reporting as
247 prescribed by the commission. Such payments together with any
248 interest earned shall be used exclusively for the payment of
249 breeders', stallion, or special racing awards in accordance with
250 the plan established pursuant to this section.

251 (3) In order for a breeder of a Florida-bred thoroughbred
252 horse to be eligible to receive a breeder's award, the horse
253 must have been registered as a Florida-bred horse with the
254 Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and the Jockey Club
255 certificate for the horse must show that the horse has been duly
256 registered as a Florida-bred horse. The Florida Thoroughbred
257 Breeders' Association may charge the registrant a reasonable fee
258 for this verification and registration not to exceed \$75 per
259 horse.

260 (4) In order for an owner of the sire of a thoroughbred
261 horse winning a stakes race to be eligible to receive a stallion
262 award, the stallion must have been registered with the Florida
263 Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and the live breeding of the
264 registered Florida-bred horse must have occurred in this state.
265 The stallion must be standing permanently in this state between
266 February 1 and June 15 of each year or, if the stallion is dead,
267 must have stood permanently in this state for a period of at
268 least 1 year immediately before its death. The removal of a
269 stallion from this state during the period of time between
270 February 1 and June 15 of any year for any reason other than
271 exclusively for prescribed medical treatment, as approved by the
272 Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, renders the owner or
273 owners of the stallion ineligible to receive a stallion award
274 under any circumstances for offspring sired before removal,
275 however, if a removed stallion is returned to this state, all

276 offspring sired subsequent to the return make the owner or
277 owners of the stallion eligible for the stallion award but only
278 for those offspring sired subsequent to such return to this
279 state. The Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association shall
280 maintain complete records showing the date the stallion arrived
281 in this state for the first time, whether or not the stallion
282 remained in the state permanently, the location of the stallion,
283 and whether the stallion is still standing in this state and
284 complete records showing awards earned, received, and
285 distributed. The Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association may
286 charge the stallion owner a reasonable fee for this service not
287 to exceed \$75 per stallion.

288 (5) Purses shall be funded from the pari-mutuel pools
289 conducted by the permitholder. A thoroughbred permit shall pay
290 as purses during its race meets an amount equal to 7 percent of
291 all wagers placed pursuant to s. 550.615 as purses during its
292 current race meet.

293 (6) A permitholder conducting a thoroughbred horse race
294 under the provisions of this chapter shall, within 30 days after
295 the end of the race meet during which the race is conducted,
296 certify to the commission such information relating to the
297 thoroughbred horses winning a stakes or other horserace at the
298 meet as may be required to determine the eligibility for payment
299 of breeders', stallion, and special racing awards.

300 (7) The commission shall maintain complete records showing

301 the starters and winners in all races conducted at thoroughbred
302 tracks in this state and shall maintain complete records showing
303 awards earned, received, and distributed.

304 (8) Any funds in the possession of the Florida
305 Thoroughbred Breeders' Association which had been paid by any
306 thoroughbred permitholder as required by any provision of
307 chapter 550 or chapter 551 in effect when the payment was made
308 or by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer
309 Services as required by any provision of chapter 571 in effect
310 when the payment was made shall be immediately paid to the
311 commission for deposit to the Pari-mutuel Wagering Trust Fund.
312 The commission shall authorize payment from such funds to any
313 breeder or stallion owner entitled to an award that has not been
314 previously paid by the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders'
315 Association in accordance with the applicable plan of
316 distribution.

317 (9) Breeders' awards or stallion awards authorized under
318 this chapter, if authorized by a rule of the commission, may be
319 paid with respect to thoroughbred horse races taking place in
320 other states or countries.

321 (10) The commission shall adopt reasonable rules to ensure
322 the timely and accurate payment of all amounts withheld by
323 horserace permitholders regarding the distribution of purses,
324 owners' awards, and other amounts collected for payment to
325 owners and breeders pursuant to this section and this chapter.

326 (11) Each permitholder that fails to pay out all moneys
327 collected for payment to owners and breeders shall, within 10
328 days after the end of the meet during which the permitholder
329 underpaid purses, deposit an amount equal to the underpayment
330 into a separate interest-bearing account established by the
331 commission, which moneys shall be distributed to owners and
332 breeders in accordance with commission rules.

333 (12) The commission may at any time adopt emergency rules
334 pursuant to s. 120.54 to implement this section. The Legislature
335 finds that such emergency rulemaking power is necessary for the
336 preservation of the rights and welfare of the people in order to
337 provide additional funds to benefit the statewide thoroughbred
338 racing and breeding industry. The Legislature further finds that
339 the unique nature of breeding and racing operations require,
340 from time to time, that the commission respond as quickly as is
341 practicable to changes in the marketplace. Therefore, in
342 adopting such emergency rules, the commission need not make the
343 findings required by s. 120.54(4)(a). Emergency rules adopted
344 under this section are exempt from s. 120.54(4)(c) and shall
345 remain in effect until replaced by other emergency rules or by
346 rules adopted under the nonemergency rulemaking procedures of
347 the Administrative Procedure Act.

348 **Section 4.** Section 550.2625, Florida Statutes, is
349 repealed.

350 **Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 550.3345, Florida**

351 **Statutes, is amended, and subsections (4) and (5) are added to**
352 **that section, to read:**

353 550.3345 Conversion of quarter horse permit to a limited
354 thoroughbred permit.—

355 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the holder
356 of a quarter horse racing permit issued under s. 550.334 may,
357 within 1 year after the effective date of this section, apply to
358 the commission for a transfer of the quarter horse racing permit
359 to a not-for-profit corporation formed under state law to serve
360 the purposes of the state as provided in subsection (1). The
361 board of directors of the not-for-profit corporation must be
362 comprised of 11 members, 4 of whom shall be designated by the
363 applicant, 4 of whom shall be designated by the commission
364 ~~Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association~~, and 3 of whom shall
365 be designated by the other 8 directors, with at least 1 of these
366 3 members being an authorized representative of another
367 thoroughbred permitholder in this state. The not-for-profit
368 corporation shall submit an application to the commission for
369 review and approval of the transfer in accordance with s.
370 550.054. Upon approval of the transfer by the commission, and
371 notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
372 not-for-profit corporation may, within 1 year after its receipt
373 of the permit, request that the commission convert the quarter
374 horse racing permit to a permit authorizing the holder to
375 conduct pari-mutuel wagering meets of thoroughbred racing.

376 Neither the transfer of the quarter horse racing permit nor its
377 conversion to a limited thoroughbred permit shall be subject to
378 the mileage limitation or the ratification election as set forth
379 under s. 550.054(2) or s. 550.0651. Upon receipt of the request
380 for such conversion, the commission shall timely issue a
381 converted permit. The converted permit and the not-for-profit
382 corporation shall be subject to the following requirements:

383 (a) All net revenues derived by the not-for-profit
384 corporation under the thoroughbred horse racing permit and any
385 license issued to the not-for-profit corporation under chapter
386 849, after the funding of operating expenses and capital
387 improvements, shall be dedicated to the enhancement of
388 thoroughbred purses and breeders', stallion, and special racing
389 awards under this chapter; the general promotion of the
390 thoroughbred horse breeding industry; and the care in this state
391 of thoroughbred horses retired from racing.

392 (b) From December 1 through April 30, no live thoroughbred
393 racing may be conducted under the permit on any day during which
394 another thoroughbred permitholder is conducting live
395 thoroughbred racing within 125 air miles of the not-for-profit
396 corporation's pari-mutuel facility unless the other thoroughbred
397 permitholder gives its written consent.

398 (c) After the conversion of the quarter horse racing
399 permit and the issuance of its initial license to conduct pari-
400 mutuel wagering meets of thoroughbred racing, the not-for-profit

401 corporation shall annually apply to the commission for a license
402 pursuant to s. 550.5251.

403 (d) Racing under the permit may take place only at the
404 location for which the original quarter horse racing permit was
405 issued, which may be leased by the not-for-profit corporation
406 for that purpose; however, the not-for-profit corporation may,
407 without the conduct of any ratification election pursuant to s.
408 550.054(13) or s. 550.0651, move the location of racing under
409 the permit to either:

410 1. Another location in the same county provided that such
411 relocation is approved under the zoning and land use regulations
412 of the applicable county or municipality; ~~or-~~

413 2. To a licensed thoroughbred training center located in a
414 county which has previously authorized pari-mutuel wagering. In
415 order to be licensed as a thoroughbred training center, it must
416 be designed and operated for the purpose of training, boarding,
417 and caring for thoroughbred racehorses and be capable of
418 providing instruction for sundry equestrian activities related
419 to such horses. The facility must have permanent stabling for at
420 least 1,000 horses and operate multiple racecourses of varying
421 surfaces for the training of thoroughbred racing. Each
422 racecourse must be at least 50 feet wide and 3,200 feet in
423 length. The training facility may include riding arenas, viewing
424 stands, pastures, grooming and veterinary care areas, and
425 related amenities. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,

426 such training center may not operate a cardroom, and such
427 permitholder operating the training center may not be issued a
428 cardroom operating license unless such permitholder held a valid
429 cardroom license issued before January 1, 2025. Notwithstanding
430 any other provision of law, such training center may not operate
431 a slot machine facility, and such permitholder operating the
432 training center may not be issued a slot machine facility
433 operating license.

434 (e) A permit converted under this section and a license
435 issued to the not-for-profit corporation under chapter 849 are
436 not eligible for transfer to another person or entity.

437 (4) In order to foster and protect the statewide
438 importance and impact of thoroughbred racing and breeding
439 throughout the state, the commission may adopt rules for the
440 licensing and oversight of thoroughbred training centers in
441 Florida which host live thoroughbred racing in conjunction with
442 their training activities. Racing at such facilities shall only
443 be conducted by a permit converted under this section that has
444 provided sufficient evidence to the commission that the
445 governance of the not-for-profit corporation is controlled by
446 board comprised of three appointees from owner of the training
447 center, an individual appointed by the chair of the commission,
448 and an individual appointed by the Commissioner of the
449 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The board
450 members may expand the board membership and make additional

451 appointments to the board from time to time pursuant to the
452 bylaws of the corporation.

453 (5) The Legislature finds and declares that it has
454 exclusive preemptive authority over the conduct of all aspects
455 of the business operations conducted at licensed thoroughbred
456 training centers authorized under this section to conduct pari-
457 mutuel wagering activities at such facilities, including, but
458 not limited to, the regulation of all equestrian activities, all
459 wagering activities, and land use. As provided by law, only the
460 commission shall administer this section and regulate the
461 equestrian and pari-mutuel wagering activities conducted at, and
462 land use applicable to, licensed thoroughbred training centers
463 as authorized in this section and the rules adopted by the
464 commission with respect thereto. Any provision of a local law, a
465 charter, an ordinance, a resolution, a regulation, a policy, an
466 initiative, or a referendum which is in conflict with this
467 section and which existed before, on, or after July 1, 2025, is
468 prohibited, void, and expressly preempted to the state.

469 **Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) and paragraphs**
470 **(a) and (b) of subsection (6) of section 550.3551, Florida**
471 **Statutes, are amended to read:**

472 550.3551 Transmission of racing and jai alai information;
473 commingling of pari-mutuel pools.—

474 (3) Any horse track licensed under this chapter may
475 receive broadcasts of horseraces conducted at other horse

476 racetracks located outside this state at the racetrack enclosure
477 of the licensee, if the horse track conducted a full schedule of
478 live racing during the preceding state fiscal year, or if the
479 horse track does not conduct live racing as authorized under s.
480 550.01215.

481 (c) All forms of pari-mutuel wagering are allowed on races
482 broadcast under this section, and all money wagered by patrons
483 on such races shall be computed as part of the total amount of
484 money wagered at each racing performance for purposes of
485 taxation under ss. 550.0951, 550.09512, and 550.09515. ~~Section~~
486 ~~550.2625(2)(a), (b), and (c) does not apply to any money wagered~~
487 ~~on races broadcast under this section. Similarly,~~ The takeout
488 shall be increased by breaks and uncashed tickets for wagers on
489 races broadcast under this section, notwithstanding any contrary
490 provision of this chapter.

491 (6) (a) A permitholder conducting live races or games may
492 not conduct fewer than eight live races or games on any
493 authorized race day except as provided in this subsection. A
494 thoroughbred permitholder may not conduct fewer than eight live
495 races on any race day without the written approval of the
496 ~~Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and the Florida~~
497 ~~Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Inc., unless~~
498 ~~it is determined by the commission that another entity that~~
499 represents a majority of the thoroughbred racehorse owners and
500 trainers conducting racing during the licensed meet ~~in the~~

501 ~~state.~~ If conducting live racing, a harness permitholder may
502 conduct fewer than eight live races on any authorized race day.
503 Any harness horse permitholder may receive full-card broadcasts
504 of harness horse races conducted at harness racetracks outside
505 this state at the harness track of the permitholder and accept
506 wagers on such harness races.

507 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
508 any harness horse permitholder accepting broadcasts of out-of-
509 state harness horse races when such permitholder is not
510 conducting live races must make the out-of-state signal
511 available to all permitholders eligible to conduct intertrack
512 wagering and shall pay to guest tracks located as specified in
513 ss. 550.615(6) and 550.6305(9)(d) 50 percent of the net proceeds
514 after taxes and fees to the out-of-state host track on harness
515 race wagers which they accept. A harness horse permitholder
516 shall be required to pay into its purse account 50 percent of
517 the net income retained by the permitholder on account of
518 wagering on the out-of-state broadcasts received pursuant to
519 this subsection. ~~Nine-tenths of a percent of all harness~~
520 ~~wagering proceeds on the broadcasts received pursuant to this~~
521 ~~subsection shall be paid to the Florida Standardbred Breeders~~
522 ~~and Owners Association under the provisions of s. 550.2625(4)~~
523 ~~for the purposes provided therein.~~

524 **Section 7.** Section 550.625, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

525 **Section 8.** **Paragraphs (a), (b), and (e) of subsection (9)**

526 **of section 550.6305, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

527 550.6305 Intertrack wagering; guest track payments;
528 accounting rules.—

529 (9) A host track that has contracted with an out-of-state
530 horse track to broadcast live races conducted at such out-of-
531 state horse track pursuant to s. 550.3551(5) may broadcast such
532 out-of-state races to any guest track and accept wagers thereon
533 in the same manner as is provided in s. 550.3551.

534 (a) For purposes of this section, "net proceeds" means the
535 amount of takeout remaining after the payment of state taxes,
536 purses required pursuant to s. 550.0951(3)(c)1., the cost to the
537 permitholder required to be paid to the out-of-state horse
538 track, and breeders' awards paid to the commission ~~Florida~~
539 ~~Thoroughbred Breeders' Association~~ and the Florida Standardbred
540 Breeders and Owners Association, to be used as set forth in this
541 chapter ~~s. 550.625(2)(a) and (b)~~.

542 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the
543 contrary ~~the provisions of subsection (1) and s. 550.625(1) and~~
544 ~~(2)(a)~~, the distribution of the net proceeds that are retained
545 by a thoroughbred host track from the takeout on an out-of-state
546 race rebroadcast under this subsection shall be as follows:

547 1. One-third of the remainder of such proceeds shall be
548 paid to the guest track;

549 2. One-third of the remainder of such proceeds shall be
550 retained by the host track; and

551 3. One-third of the remainder of such proceeds shall be
 552 paid by the host track as purses at the host track.

553 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the
 554 contrary ~~the provisions of subsection (1) and s. 550.625(1) and~~
 555 ~~(2)(b)~~, the proceeds that are retained by a harness host
 556 facility from the takeout on a race broadcast under this
 557 subsection shall be distributed as follows:

558 1. Of the total intertrack handle on the broadcast, 1
 559 percent shall be deducted from the proceeds and paid to the
 560 Florida Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association, Inc., ~~to~~
 561 ~~be used as set forth in s. 550.625(2)(b);~~

562 2. One-third of the remainder of such proceeds shall be
 563 paid to the guest facility;

564 3. One-third of the remainder of such proceeds shall be
 565 retained by the host facility; and

566 4. One-third of the remainder of said proceeds shall be
 567 paid by the host facility as purses at the host facility.

568 **Section 9. Paragraphs (d) through (j) of subsection (4)**
 569 **and paragraphs (b) through (d) of subsection (10) of section**
 570 **551.104, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (c)**
 571 **through (i) and (a) through (c), respectively, and paragraph (c)**
 572 **of subsection (4) and paragraph (a) of subsection (10) are**
 573 **amended, to read:**

574 551.104 License to conduct slot machine gaming.—

575 (4) As a condition of licensure and to maintain continued

576 authority for the conduct of slot machine gaming, the slot
577 machine licensee shall:

578 ~~(c) If a thoroughbred permitholder, conduct no fewer than~~
579 ~~a full schedule of live racing or games as defined in s.~~
580 ~~550.002(10). A permitholder's responsibility to conduct live~~
581 ~~races or games shall be reduced by the number of races or games~~
582 ~~that could not be conducted due to the direct result of fire,~~
583 ~~strike, war, hurricane, pandemic, or other disaster or event~~
584 ~~beyond the control of the permitholder.~~

585 ~~(10)(a)1. No slot machine license or renewal thereof shall~~
586 ~~be issued to an applicant holding a permit under chapter 550 to~~
587 ~~conduct pari-mutuel wagering meets of thoroughbred racing unless~~
588 ~~the applicant has on file with the commission a binding written~~
589 ~~agreement between the applicant and the Florida Horsemen's~~
590 ~~Benevolent and Protective Association, Inc., governing the~~
591 ~~payment of purses on live thoroughbred races conducted at the~~
592 ~~licensee's pari-mutuel facility. In addition, no slot machine~~
593 ~~license or renewal thereof shall be issued to such an applicant~~
594 ~~unless the applicant has on file with the commission a binding~~
595 ~~written agreement between the applicant and the Florida~~
596 ~~Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, Inc., governing the payment~~
597 ~~of breeders', stallion, and special racing awards on live~~
598 ~~thoroughbred races conducted at the licensee's pari-mutuel~~
599 ~~facility. The agreement governing purses and the agreement~~
600 ~~governing awards may direct the payment of such purses and~~

601 ~~awards from revenues generated by any wagering or gaming the~~
602 ~~applicant is authorized to conduct under Florida law. All purses~~
603 ~~and awards shall be subject to the terms of chapter 550. All~~
604 ~~sums for breeders', stallion, and special racing awards shall be~~
605 ~~remitted monthly to the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders'~~
606 ~~Association, Inc., for the payment of awards subject to the~~
607 ~~administrative fee authorized in s. 550.2625(3).~~

608 ~~2. No slot machine license or renewal thereof shall be~~
609 ~~issued to an applicant holding a permit under chapter 550 to~~
610 ~~conduct pari-mutuel wagering meets of quarter horse racing~~
611 ~~unless the applicant has on file with the commission a binding~~
612 ~~written agreement between the applicant and the Florida Quarter~~
613 ~~Horse Racing Association or the association representing a~~
614 ~~majority of the horse owners and trainers at the applicant's~~
615 ~~eligible facility, governing the payment of purses on live~~
616 ~~quarter horse races conducted at the licensee's pari-mutuel~~
617 ~~facility. The agreement governing purses may direct the payment~~
618 ~~of such purses from revenues generated by any wagering or gaming~~
619 ~~the applicant is authorized to conduct under Florida law. All~~
620 ~~purses shall be subject to the terms of chapter 550.~~

621 **Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection**
622 **(4) of section 571.265, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as**
623 **paragraph (c) and renumbered as subsection (5), respectively,**
624 **subsection (3) is amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to**
625 **subsection (1) and a new subsection (4) is added to that**

626 **section, to read:**

627 571.265 Promotion of Florida thoroughbred breeding and of
628 thoroughbred racing at Florida thoroughbred tracks; distribution
629 of funds.—

630 (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

631 (b) "Commission" means the Florida Gaming Control
632 Commission.

633 (3) The department shall distribute the funds made
634 available under this section as follows:

635 (a) Five million dollars shall be distributed to the
636 commission ~~association~~ to be used for the following:

637 1. One million five hundred thousand dollars shall be used
638 for a program established by the department for the recruitment
639 and retention of thoroughbred stallions and mares for breeding.
640 The department shall adopt rules and administer a grant program
641 to implement this section which shall be available to new
642 stallions and mares registered with the association after July
643 1, 2025. Funds may be used to assist with the cost of relocation
644 of out-of-state stallions and mares and to subsidize the costs
645 of breeding to registered Florida stallions. Reimbursement rates
646 under the program shall be as follows:

647 a. Twenty-five thousand dollars shall be available after
648 verification by the department of the relocation and the
649 registration with the association of a new stallion from out of
650 state. No more than ten new stallions each year that relocate to

651 Florida and register with the association may be eligible for
652 funds under this paragraph.

653 b. Up to \$15,000 in additional funds shall be available
654 for each stallion registered with the association after July 1,
655 2025, subject to performance criteria as a stud established by
656 the department for payment at the conclusion of the first
657 foaling season following year after its registration.

658 c. One thousand five hundred dollars per mare that has
659 previously been bred to a thoroughbred stallion in an out-of-
660 state location upon the mare's relocation to Florida and the
661 mare's registration with the association after July 1, 2025, to
662 assist in the costs associated with the mare's relocation to
663 Florida and registration with the association.

664 d. One thousand dollars per mare located in Florida that
665 at the time of registration with the association has not
666 previously been bred to a thoroughbred stallion.

667 2. Three million five hundred thousand dollars shall be
668 used to provide for the reimbursement of stallion fees to the
669 owner of mares registered with the association after the mare
670 produces a live foal from a breeding with a stallion
671 participating in the program. The owner of a mare may seek
672 reimbursement after the mare produces a live foal and the foal's
673 registration with the association. The owners of mares
674 registered with the association may seek reimbursement for
675 stallion stud fees from the department under the following

676 criteria:

677 a. Owners of mares may only seek reimbursement for
678 stallion stud fees that were \$10,000 or less at the time of the
679 breeding.

680 b. The owner of a mare registered with the association
681 before July 1, 2025, or the owner of a mare registered after
682 July 1, 2025, that received reimbursement for a stallion stud
683 fee resulting in a live foal under sub-paragraph c. shall
684 receive reimbursement of fifty percent of the stallion fee, up
685 to \$7,500.

686 c. The owner of a mare registered with the association
687 after July 1, 2025, shall receive a reimbursement of one hundred
688 percent of the stallion stud fee, up to \$10,000 for its first
689 live foal that the mare produces from a breeding to a stallion
690 participating in the program.

691 d. The department may adjust the caps established under
692 sub-subparagraph a. in the annual program adopted by the
693 department beginning with the 2028 breeding season and in sub-
694 subparagraph b. beginning with the 2029 breeding season.

695
696 The owner of any horse participating in or receiving funds from
697 this program may only sell the participating mare or stallion in
698 a private sale or via a public sale at a sales venue located in
699 this state and licensed by the department pursuant to s. 535.01.
700 The department may at any time adopt emergency rules, forms, and

701 audit procedures pursuant to s. 120.54. The Legislature finds
702 that such emergency rulemaking power is necessary for the
703 preservation of the rights and welfare of the people
704 participating in the annual program in order to provide these
705 additional funds to benefit the public. The Legislature further
706 finds that the unique nature of thoroughbred breeding operations
707 requires, from time to time, that the department respond as
708 quickly as is practicable to changes in the marketplace.
709 Therefore, in adopting such emergency rules, the department need
710 not make the findings required by s. 120.54(4)(a). Emergency
711 rules adopted under this section are exempt from s. 120.54(4)(c)
712 and shall remain in effect until replaced by other emergency
713 rules or by rules adopted under the nonemergency rulemaking
714 procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act. The association
715 may charge a registration fee not to exceed \$75 for each
716 registered mare participating in the program and shall submit to
717 the commission and the department annually by July 30 a report
718 detailing the new and current owners and horses participating in
719 the program.

720 ~~1. Purses or purse supplements for Florida-bred or~~
721 ~~Florida-sired horses registered with the association that~~
722 ~~participate in Florida thoroughbred races.~~

723 ~~2. Awards to breeders of Florida-bred horses registered~~
724 ~~with the association that win, place, or show in Florida~~
725 ~~thoroughbred races.~~

726 ~~3. Awards to owners of stallions who sired Florida-bred~~
 727 ~~horses registered with the association that win Florida~~
 728 ~~thoroughbred stakes races, if the stallions are registered with~~
 729 ~~the association as Florida stallions standing in this state.~~

730 ~~4. Other racing incentives connected to Florida-bred or~~
 731 ~~Florida-sired horses registered with the association that~~
 732 ~~participate in thoroughbred races in Florida.~~

733 ~~5. Awards administration.~~

734 ~~6. Promotion of the Florida thoroughbred breeding~~
 735 ~~industry.~~

736 (b) Five million dollars shall be distributed to Tampa Bay
 737 Downs, Inc., to be used as purses in thoroughbred races
 738 conducted at its pari-mutuel facilities and for the maintenance
 739 and operation of that facility, ~~pursuant to an agreement with~~
 740 ~~its local majority horsemen's group.~~

741 (c) Fifteen million dollars shall be distributed to
 742 Gulfstream Park Racing Association, Inc., to be used as purses
 743 in thoroughbred races conducted by either Gulfstream Park Racing
 744 Association or Gulfstream Park Thoroughbred Aftercare and
 745 Retirement Association at their current pari-mutuel facility as
 746 allowed under ss. 550.475 and 550.3345(2)(d) and for the
 747 maintenance and operation of its facility ~~at its pari-mutuel~~
 748 ~~facility and for the maintenance and operation of its facility,~~
 749 ~~pursuant to an agreement with the Florida Horsemen's Benevolent~~
 750 ~~and Protective Association, Inc.~~

751 (d) Two and one-half million dollars shall be distributed
752 as follows:

753 1. One ~~Two~~ million dollars to Gulfstream Park Racing
754 Association, Inc., and Gulfstream Park Thoroughbred Aftercare
755 and Retirement Association, to be used as purses and purse
756 supplements for Florida-bred or Florida-sired horses registered
757 with the association that participate in thoroughbred races at
758 the permitholder's racing location ~~pari-mutuel facility,~~
759 pursuant to a written agreement filed with its majority
760 horsemen's group ~~the department establishing the rates,~~
761 ~~procedures, and eligibility requirements entered into by the~~
762 ~~permitholder, the association, and the Florida Horsemen's~~
763 ~~Benevolent and Protective Association, Inc.~~

764 2. One million dollars to Gulfstream Park Racing
765 Association, Inc., to be used as restricted purses for Florida-
766 bred or Florida-sired horses registered with the association
767 that participate in thoroughbred races conducted at the
768 permitholder's pari-mutuel facility between May 1 and November 1
769 pursuant to a written agreement with its majority horsemen's
770 group. The plan for payment of the restricted purses shall be
771 submitted to the commission and incorporated into its annual
772 plan for purses and purse supplements. Funds allocated under
773 this paragraph shall be for racing purses only, and no
774 administrative fees shall be deducted from these funds.

775 ~~3.2.~~ Five hundred thousand dollars to Tampa Bay Downs,

776 Inc., to be used as purses and purse supplements for Florida-
777 bred or Florida-sired horses registered with the association
778 that participate in thoroughbred races at the permitholder's
779 pari-mutuel facility, pursuant to an annual plan established by
780 the commission ~~a written agreement filed with the department~~
781 ~~establishing the rates, procedures, and eligibility requirements~~
782 ~~entered into by the permitholder, the association, and the local~~
783 ~~majority horsemen's group at the permitholder's pari-mutuel~~
784 ~~facility.~~

785 (4) If either permitholder referenced to in paragraphs
786 (3) (b) or (c) elects to no longer offer live racing performances
787 such permitholder's allocation of the fund shall be distributed
788 to any other permitholder which is licensed to offer a full
789 calendar of live racing at a location that is more than 125
790 miles from the location of a permitholder which did not elect to
791 discontinue offering live performances. If there is more than
792 one, the funds shall be prorated proportionately according to
793 live race days. If there are no permitholders offering live
794 racing performances outside the 125-mile restricted area, the
795 nonelecting permitholder shall receive 100 percent of the funds
796 subject to offering a full racing calendar.

797 **Section 11. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) and paragraph**
798 **(d) of subsection (13) of section 849.086, Florida Statutes, are**
799 **amended to read:**

800 849.086 Cardrooms authorized.—

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

804 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pari-
805 mutuel permitholder, other than a permitholder issued a permit
806 pursuant to s. 550.3345 or a purchaser, transferee, or assignee
807 holding a valid permit for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering
808 approved pursuant to s. 550.054(15)(a), may not be issued a
809 license for the operation of a cardroom if the permitholder did
810 not hold an operating license for the conduct of pari-mutuel
811 wagering for fiscal year 2020-2021. In order for an initial
812 cardroom license to be issued to a thoroughbred permitholder
813 issued a permit pursuant to s. 550.3345, the applicant must have
814 requested, as part of its pari-mutuel annual license
815 application, to conduct at least a full schedule of live racing.
816 ~~In order for a cardroom license to be renewed by a thoroughbred~~
817 ~~permitholder, the applicant must have requested, as part of its~~
818 ~~pari-mutuel annual license application, to conduct at least 90~~
819 ~~percent of the total number of live performances conducted by~~
820 ~~such permitholder during either the state fiscal year in which~~
821 ~~its initial cardroom license was issued or the state fiscal year~~
822 ~~immediately prior thereto if the permitholder ran at least a~~
823 ~~full schedule of live racing or games in the prior year.~~

824 (13) TAXES AND OTHER PAYMENTS.—

825 (d)1. Each jai alai permitholder that conducts live

826 | performances and operates a cardroom facility shall use at least
827 | 4 percent of such permitholder's cardroom monthly gross receipts
828 | to supplement jai alai prize money during the permitholder's
829 | next ensuing pari-mutuel meet.

830 | ~~2. Each thoroughbred permitholder or harness horse racing~~
831 | ~~permitholder that conducts live performances and operates a~~
832 | ~~cardroom facility shall use at least 50 percent of such~~
833 | ~~permitholder's cardroom monthly net proceeds as follows: 47~~
834 | ~~percent to supplement purses and 3 percent to supplement~~
835 | ~~breeders' awards during the permitholder's next ensuing racing~~
836 | ~~meet.~~

837 | 2.3. No cardroom license or renewal thereof shall be
838 | issued to an applicant holding a permit under chapter 550 to
839 | conduct pari-mutuel wagering meets of quarter horse racing and
840 | conducting live performances unless the applicant has on file
841 | with the commission a binding written agreement between the
842 | applicant and the Florida Quarter Horse Racing Association or
843 | the association representing a majority of the horse owners and
844 | trainers at the applicant's eligible facility, governing the
845 | payment of purses on live quarter horse races conducted at the
846 | licensee's pari-mutuel facility. The agreement governing purses
847 | may direct the payment of such purses from revenues generated by
848 | any wagering or gaming the applicant is authorized to conduct
849 | under Florida law. All purses shall be subject to the terms of
850 | chapter 550.

851 **Section 12. Subsection (4) of section 550.0351, Florida**
852 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

853 550.0351 Charity days.—

854 (4) The total of all profits derived from the conduct of a
855 charity day performance must include all revenues derived from
856 the conduct of that performance, including all state taxes that
857 would otherwise be due to the state, except that the daily
858 license fee as provided in s. 550.0951(1) and the breaks for the
859 promotional trust funds ~~as provided in s. 550.2625(3), (4), (5),~~
860 ~~(7), and (8)~~ shall be paid to the commission. All other revenues
861 from the charity performance, including the commissions, breaks,
862 and admissions and the revenues from parking, programs, and
863 concessions, shall be included in the total of all profits.

864 **Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 550.2614, Florida**
865 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

866 550.2614 Distribution of certain funds to a horsemen's
867 association.—

868 (1) Each licensee that holds a permit for thoroughbred
869 horse racing in this state shall deduct from the purses ~~required~~
870 ~~by s. 550.2625~~, an amount of money equal to 1 percent of the
871 total purse pool and shall pay that amount to a horsemen's
872 association representing the majority of the thoroughbred
873 racehorse owners and trainers for its use in accordance with the
874 stated goals of its articles of association filed with the
875 Department of State.

876 **Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section**
 877 **550.26165, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

878 550.26165 Breeders' awards.—

879 (5)

880 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
 881 contrary, the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, as
 882 part of its annual plan, may:

883 1. Pay breeders' awards on horses finishing in first,
 884 second, or third place in thoroughbred horse races; pay
 885 breeders' awards that are greater than 20 percent and less than
 886 15 percent of the announced gross purse; and vary the rates for
 887 breeders' awards, based upon the place of finish, class of race,
 888 state or country in which the race took place, and the state in
 889 which the stallion siring the horse was standing when the horse
 890 was conceived;

891 2. Pay stallion awards on horses finishing in first,
 892 second, or third place in thoroughbred horse races; pay stallion
 893 awards that are greater than 20 percent and less than 15 percent
 894 of the announced gross purse; reduce or eliminate stallion
 895 awards to enhance breeders' awards or awards under subparagraph
 896 3.; and vary the rates for stallion awards, based upon the place
 897 of finish, class of race, and state or country in which the race
 898 took place; and

899 3. Pay awards from the funds dedicated for breeders'
 900 awards and stallion awards to owners of registered Florida-bred

901 horses finishing in first, second, or third place in
 902 thoroughbred horse races in this state, ~~without regard to any~~
 903 ~~awards paid pursuant to s. 550.2625(6).~~

904 **Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 550.2633, Florida**
 905 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

906 550.2633 Horseracing; distribution of abandoned interest
 907 in or contributions to pari-mutuel pools.—

908 (2) All moneys or other property which has escheated to
 909 and become the property of the state as provided herein and
 910 which is held by a permitholder authorized to conduct pari-
 911 mutuel pools in this state shall be paid annually by the
 912 permitholder to the recipient designated in this subsection
 913 within 60 days after the close of the race meeting of the
 914 permitholder. Section 550.1645 notwithstanding, the moneys shall
 915 be paid by the permitholder as follows:

916 (a) Funds from any harness horse races shall be paid to
 917 the Florida Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association and
 918 shall be used for the payment of breeders' awards, stallion
 919 awards, stallion stakes, additional purses, and prizes for, and
 920 for the general promotion of owning and breeding of, Florida-
 921 bred standardbred horses, ~~as provided for in s. 550.2625.~~

922 (b) Funds from quarter horse races shall be paid to the
 923 Florida Quarter Horse Breeders and Owners Association and shall
 924 be allocated solely for supplementing and augmenting purses and
 925 prizes and for the general promotion of owning and breeding of

926 racing quarter horses in this state, as provided for in s.
927 550.2625.

928 **Section 16. Subsection (7) of section 550.26352, Florida**
929 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

930 550.26352 Breeders' Cup Meet; pools authorized; conflicts;
931 taxes; credits; transmission of races; rules; application.—

932 (7) The permitholder conducting the Breeders' Cup Meet
933 shall be exempt from the payment of purses and other payments to
934 horsemen on all on-track, intertrack, interstate, and
935 international wagers or rights fees or payments arising
936 therefrom for all races for which the purse is paid or supplied
937 by Breeders' Cup Limited. The permitholder conducting the
938 Breeders' Cup Meet shall not, however, be exempt from breeders'
939 awards payments for on-track and intertrack wagers ~~as provided~~
940 ~~in ss. 550.2625(3) and 550.625(2)(a)~~ for races in which the
941 purse is paid or supplied by Breeders' Cup Limited.

942 **Section 17.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.