

**By** Senator DiCeglie

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30       location of the licensee's thoroughbred horse  
31       racetrack; amending s. 550.09515, F.S.; providing that  
32       the permit of a thoroughbred permitholder who conducts  
33       live performances and does not pay taxes for a certain  
34       time is void; reenacting and amending s. 550.3345,  
35       F.S.; providing that certain members of a certain not-  
36       for-profit corporation be designated by the  
37       commission, rather than the Florida Thoroughbred  
38       Breeders' Association; providing that the not-for-  
39       profit corporation may move the location of a permit  
40       to another location in a different county which has  
41       been previously authorized for pari-mutuel wagering;  
42       amending s. 550.475, F.S.; providing that holders of  
43       pari-mutuel permits for pari-mutuel wagering may lease  
44       any of the facilities of a thoroughbred training  
45       facility holding a valid license; revising the  
46       geographic area within which a pari-mutuel  
47       permitholder may lease its facilities to certain  
48       persons and permitholders; prohibiting a thoroughbred  
49       permitholder relocation from operating a cardroom at a  
50       leased training facility; providing that a lessor of a  
51       pari-mutuel facility that has been issued a slot  
52       machine license or a cardroom license is an eligible  
53       facility; amending s. 550.5251, F.S.; requiring that  
54       thoroughbred permitholders required to offer live  
55       racing, rather than all thoroughbred permitholders,  
56       must annually file with the commission an application  
57       to conduct one or more thoroughbred racing meetings  
58       during the thoroughbred racing season; reenacting s.

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59        550.615(2) and (8), F.S., relating to intertrack  
60        wagering, to incorporate the amendments made to ss.  
61        550.01215 and 550.475, F.S., in references thereto;  
62        providing an effective date.

63  
64        Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

65  
66        Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of  
67        section 550.01215, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

68        550.01215 License application; periods of operation;  
69        license fees; bond.—

70        (1) Each permitholder shall annually, during the period  
71        between January 15 and February 4, file in writing with the  
72        commission its application for an operating license for a pari-  
73        mutuel facility for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering during  
74        the next state fiscal year, including intertrack and simulcast  
75        race wagering. Each application for live performances must  
76        specify the number, dates, and starting times of all live  
77        performances that the permitholder intends to conduct. It must  
78        also specify which performances will be conducted as charity or  
79        scholarship performances.

80        (a) Each application for an operating license also must  
81        include:

82        1. For each permitholder, whether the permitholder intends  
83        to accept wagers on intertrack or simulcast events.

84        2. For each permitholder that elects to operate a cardroom,  
85        the dates and periods of operation the permitholder intends to  
86        operate the cardroom.

87        3. For each thoroughbred racing permitholder that elects to

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88 receive or rebroadcast out-of-state races, the dates for all  
89 performances that the permitholder intends to conduct.

90 (b)1. A greyhound permitholder may not conduct live racing.  
91 A jai alai permitholder, harness horse racing permitholder,  
92 thoroughbred permitholder, or quarter horse racing permitholder  
93 may elect not to conduct live racing or games. ~~A thoroughbred~~  
94 ~~permitholder must conduct live racing.~~ A greyhound permitholder,  
95 jai alai permitholder, harness horse racing permitholder, ~~or~~  
96 quarter horse racing permitholder, or thoroughbred permitholder  
97 that does not conduct live racing or games retains its permit;  
98 is a pari-mutuel facility as defined in s. 550.002(23); if such  
99 permitholder has been issued a slot machine license, the  
100 facility where such permit is located remains an eligible  
101 facility as defined in s. 551.102(4), continues to be eligible  
102 for a slot machine license pursuant to s. 551.104(3), and is  
103 exempt from ss. 551.104(4)(c) and (10) and 551.114(2); is  
104 eligible, but not required, to be a guest track and, if the  
105 permitholder is a harness horse racing permitholder, to be a  
106 host track for purposes of intertrack wagering and simulcasting  
107 pursuant to ss. 550.3551, 550.615, 550.625, and 550.6305; and  
108 remains eligible for a cardroom license, and is exempt from s.  
109 849.086(5)(c) and (13)(d)2. A thoroughbred permitholder that  
110 operates a slot machine facility or cardroom must offer a full  
111 schedule of live racing until such permitholder notifies the  
112 commission that it will no longer offer live racing. Notice  
113 under this paragraph is not valid unless delivered to the  
114 commission on or after July 1, 2027. Such notice must contain  
115 the date on which the permitholder will no longer offer live  
116 racing, which may be no earlier than a date 3 years after the

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117 date of the notice. A permitholder is not required to deliver  
118 such notice when relocating pursuant to s. 550.3345(2)(d) or s.  
119 550.475 with authorization by the commission in accordance with  
120 s. 550.054.

121 2. A permitholder or licensee may not conduct live  
122 greyhound racing or dogracing in connection with any wager for  
123 money or any other thing of value in the state. The commission  
124 may deny, suspend, or revoke any permit or license under this  
125 chapter if a permitholder or licensee conducts live greyhound  
126 racing or dogracing in violation of this subparagraph. In  
127 addition to, or in lieu of, denial, suspension, or revocation of  
128 such permit or license, the commission may impose a civil  
129 penalty of up to \$5,000 against the permitholder or licensee for  
130 a violation of this subparagraph. All penalties imposed and  
131 collected must be deposited with the Chief Financial Officer to  
132 the credit of the General Revenue Fund.

133 Section 2. Subsection (13) and paragraph (b) of subsection  
134 (14) of section 550.054, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

135 550.054 Application for permit to conduct pari-mutuel  
136 wagering.—

137 (13) ~~(a)~~ Notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter to  
138 the contrary, a no thoroughbred horse racing permit or license  
139 issued under this chapter may shall be transferred, or reissued  
140 when such reissuance is in the nature of a transfer so as to  
141 permit or authorize a licensee to change the location of a  
142 thoroughbred horse racetrack except upon authorization by proof  
143 in such form as the commission may prescribe that a referendum  
144 election has been held:

145 1. ~~If the proposed new location is within the same county~~

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146 as the already licensed location, in the county where the  
147 licensee desires to conduct the race meeting and that a majority  
148 of the electors voting on that question in such election voted  
149 in favor of the transfer of such license.

150 2. If the proposed new location is not within the same  
151 county as the already licensed location, in the county where the  
152 licensee desires to conduct the race meeting and in the county  
153 where the licensee is already licensed to conduct the race  
154 meeting and that a majority of the electors voting on that  
155 question in each such election voted in favor of the transfer of  
156 such license.

157 (b) Each referendum held under the provisions of this  
158 subsection shall be held in accordance with the electoral  
159 procedures for ratification of permits, as provided in s.  
160 550.0651. The expense of each such referendum shall be borne by  
161 the licensee requesting the transfer.

162 (14)

163 (b) The commission, upon application from the holder of a  
164 jai alai permit meeting all conditions of this section, shall  
165 convert the permit and shall issue to the permitholder a permit  
166 to conduct greyhound racing. A permitholder of a permit  
167 converted under this section is shall be required to apply for  
168 and conduct a full schedule of live racing each fiscal year to  
169 be eligible for any tax credit provided by this chapter. The  
170 holder of a permit converted pursuant to this subsection or any  
171 holder of a permit to conduct greyhound racing located in a  
172 county in which it is the only permit issued pursuant to this  
173 section who operates at a leased facility pursuant to s. 550.475  
174 may move the location for which the permit has been issued to

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175 another location within a 30-mile radius of the location fixed  
176 in the permit issued in that county, provided the move does not  
177 cross the county boundary and such location is approved under  
178 the zoning regulations of the county or municipality in which  
179 the permit is located, and upon such relocation may use the  
180 permit for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering and the operation  
181 of a cardroom. The provisions of s. 550.6305(9)(d) and (f) ~~shall~~  
182 apply to any permit converted under this subsection and ~~shall~~  
183 continue to apply to any permit which was previously included  
184 under and subject to such provisions before a conversion  
185 pursuant to this section occurred.

186 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
187 550.09515, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

188 550.09515 Thoroughbred horse taxes; abandoned interest in a  
189 permit for nonpayment of taxes.—

190 (3) (a) The permit of a thoroughbred ~~horse~~ permitholder who  
191 conducts live thoroughbred performances and does not pay tax on  
192 handle for live thoroughbred ~~horse~~ performances for a full  
193 schedule of live races during any 2 consecutive state fiscal  
194 years is ~~shall~~ be void and must ~~shall~~ escheat to and become the  
195 property of the state unless such failure to operate and pay tax  
196 on handle was the direct result of fire, strike, war, or other  
197 disaster or event beyond the ability of the permitholder to  
198 control. Financial hardship to the permitholder does ~~shall~~ not,  
199 in and of itself, constitute just cause for failure to operate  
200 and pay tax on handle.

201 Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 550.3345, Florida  
202 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) of that section is  
203 reenacted, to read:

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204        550.3345 Conversion of quarter horse permit to a limited  
205 thoroughbred permit.—

206        (2) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of~~ law, the holder  
207 of a quarter horse racing permit issued under s. 550.334 may,  
208 within 1 year after the effective date of this section, apply to  
209 the commission for a transfer of the quarter horse racing permit  
210 to a not-for-profit corporation formed under state law to serve  
211 the purposes of the state as provided in subsection (1). The  
212 board of directors of the not-for-profit corporation shall  
213 consist ~~must be comprised~~ of 11 members, 4 of whom shall be  
214 designated by the applicant, 4 of whom shall be designated by  
215 the ~~commission~~ ~~Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association~~, and 3  
216 of whom shall be designated by the other 8 directors, with at  
217 least 1 of these 3 members being an authorized representative of  
218 another thoroughbred permitholder in this state. The not-for-  
219 profit corporation shall submit an application to the commission  
220 for review and approval of the transfer in accordance with s.  
221 550.054. Upon approval of the transfer by the commission, and  
222 notwithstanding any other ~~provision of~~ law to the contrary, the  
223 not-for-profit corporation may, within 1 year after its receipt  
224 of the permit, request that the commission convert the quarter  
225 horse racing permit to a permit authorizing the holder to  
226 conduct pari-mutuel wagering meets of thoroughbred racing.

227 ~~Neither~~ The transfer of the quarter horse racing permit or ~~nor~~  
228 its conversion to a limited thoroughbred permit may not ~~shall~~ be  
229 subject to the mileage limitation or the ratification election  
230 as set forth under s. 550.054(2) or s. 550.0651. Upon receipt of  
231 the request for such conversion, the commission shall timely  
232 issue a converted permit. The converted permit and the not-for-

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233 profit corporation is ~~shall~~ be subject to the following  
234 requirements:

235 (a) All net revenues derived by the not-for-profit  
236 corporation under the thoroughbred horse racing permit and any  
237 license issued to the not-for-profit corporation under chapter  
238 849, after the funding of operating expenses and capital  
239 improvements, must ~~shall~~ be dedicated to the enhancement of  
240 thoroughbred purses and breeders', stallion, and special racing  
241 awards under this chapter; the general promotion of the  
242 thoroughbred horse breeding industry; and the care in this state  
243 of thoroughbred horses retired from racing.

244 (b) From December 1 through April 30, ~~no~~ live thoroughbred  
245 racing may not be conducted under the permit on any day during  
246 which another thoroughbred permitholder is conducting live  
247 thoroughbred racing within 125 air miles of the not-for-profit  
248 corporation's pari-mutuel facility unless the other thoroughbred  
249 permitholder gives its written consent.

250 (c) After the conversion of the quarter horse racing permit  
251 and the issuance of its initial license to conduct pari-mutuel  
252 wagering meets of thoroughbred racing, the not-for-profit  
253 corporation shall annually apply to the commission for a license  
254 pursuant to s. 550.5251.

255 (d) Racing under the permit may take place only at the  
256 location for which the original quarter horse racing permit was  
257 issued, which may be leased by the not-for-profit corporation  
258 for that purpose; however, the not-for-profit corporation may,  
259 without the conduct of any ratification election pursuant to s.  
260 550.054(13) or s. 550.0651, move the location of the permit to  
261 another location in the same county, or a location in a

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262 different county which has been previously authorized for pari-  
263 mutuel wagering, provided that such relocation is approved under  
264 the zoning and land use regulations of the applicable county or  
265 municipality.

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

269 (3) Unless otherwise provided in this section, after  
270 conversion, the permit and the not-for-profit corporation shall  
271 be treated under the laws of this state as a thoroughbred permit  
272 and as a thoroughbred permitholder, respectively, with the  
273 exception of ss. 550.09515(3) and 550.6308.

274 Section 5. Section 550.475, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
275 read:

276 550.475 Lease of pari-mutuel facilities by pari-mutuel  
277 permitholders.—Holders of valid pari-mutuel permits for the  
278 conduct of any pari-mutuel wagering in this state may are  
279 entitled to lease any and all of the their facilities of to any  
280 other holder of a same class valid pari-mutuel permit or a  
281 thoroughbred training facility holding a valid license issued by  
282 the commission, when located within a 50-mile 35-mile radius of  
283 each other; and such lessee is entitled to a permit and license  
284 to conduct intertrack wagering and operate its race meet or jai  
285 alai games at the leased premises. A thoroughbred permitholder  
286 relocation pursuant to s. 550.3345(2)(d) or this section, in  
287 accordance with s. 550.054, may not operate a cardroom at a  
288 leased training facility. Notwithstanding any other law, the  
289 lessor of a pari-mutuel facility that has been issued a slot  
290 machine license or a cardroom license is an eligible facility as

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291 defined in s. 551.102.292       Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 550.5251, Florida  
293 Statutes, is amended to read:294       550.5251 Florida thoroughbred racing; certain permits;  
295 operating days.—296       (1) Each thoroughbred permitholder required to offer live  
297 racing must shall annually, during the period commencing January  
298 15 of each year and ending February 4 of the following year,  
299 file in writing with the commission its application to conduct  
300 one or more thoroughbred racing meetings during the thoroughbred  
301 racing season commencing on the following July 1. Each  
302 application must shall specify the number and dates of all  
303 performances that the permitholder intends to conduct during  
304 that thoroughbred racing season. On or before April 15 of each  
305 year, the commission shall issue a license authorizing each  
306 permitholder to conduct performances on the dates specified in  
307 its application. Up to March 28 of each year, each permitholder  
308 may request and shall be granted changes in its application to  
309 conduct performances; but thereafter, as a condition precedent  
310 to the validity of its license and its right to retain its  
311 permit, each permitholder must operate the full number of days  
312 authorized on each of the dates set forth in its license.313       Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
314 made by this act to sections 550.01215 and 550.475, Florida  
315 Statutes, in references thereto, subsections (2) and (8) of  
316 section 550.615, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

317       550.615 Intertrack wagering.—

318       (2) Except as provided in subsection (1), a pari-mutuel  
319 permitholder that has met the applicable requirement for that

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320 permitholder to conduct live racing or games under s.  
321 550.01215(1) (b), if any, for fiscal year 2020-2021 is qualified  
322 to, at any time, receive broadcasts of any class of pari-mutuel  
323 race or game and accept wagers on such races or games conducted  
324 by any class of permitholders licensed under this chapter.

325 (8) In any three contiguous counties of the state where  
326 there are only three permitholders, all of which are greyhound  
327 permitholders, if any permitholder leases the facility of  
328 another permitholder for all or any portion of the conduct of  
329 its live race meet pursuant to s. 550.475, such lessee may  
330 conduct intertrack wagering at its pre-lease permitted facility  
331 throughout the entire year.

332 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.