

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 547

BY REPRESENTATIVES BOYER, ADAMS, BAYHAM, BOYD, CHASSION,  
DESHOTEL, DICKERSON, EGAN, FISHER, HUGHES, JACKSON, KNOX,  
LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, ST. BLANC, TAYLOR, WALTERS, WILLARD, AND  
YOUNG

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 4:149(A) and R.S. 27:44(22), 205(30), 602(introductory paragraph), (19), and (22), and 625(G)(4) and to enact R.S. 4:200 and R.S. 27:86(E), 249.1(E), 603(A)(2)(a)(xvii), 608(B)(3), and 612, relative to pari-mutuel wagering; to authorize fixed odds wagering on horse racing; to provide for definitions; to create the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund; to provide a percentage of proceeds to be credited to the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund; to provide for the allocation of monies from the fund; to provide for the limitation on certain types of wagers; to provide for the duties of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board; to provide for rulemaking; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 4:149(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 4:200 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§149. Wagering; rules and regulations

A. The commission may prescribe rules and regulations under which shall be conducted all horse races upon the results of which there is wagering. The

commission shall, as may be necessary, prescribe additional special rules and regulations applicable separately to thoroughbreds and quarter horses. The commission shall make rules governing, permitting, and regulating the wagering on horse races under the form of mutuel wagering by patrons, known as pari-mutuel wagering, whether on live or historical horse races. Only those persons receiving a license from the commission may conduct this type of wagering, and shall restrict this form of wagering to any space within the race meeting grounds or an offtrack wagering facility, as determined solely by the commission. ~~All~~ Except as provided in this Section or in R.S. 27:612, all other forms of wagering on the result of horse races are illegal.

\* \* \*

§200. Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund; creation

A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special fund to be known as the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Supplement Fund, hereafter referred to in this Section as the "fund".

B. Any appropriation by the legislature to the commission from the fund shall be utilized to supplement breeder awards and purses for Louisiana bred thoroughbreds and quarter horses as provided in this Section.

C. Monies in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same manner as monies in the state general fund. Interest earned on the investments of monies in the fund shall be deposited in and credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

D. Monies in the fund shall only be withdrawn pursuant to an appropriation by the legislature solely to implement the provisions of this Section.

E. Each fiscal year, the commission shall allocate any appropriations received pursuant to R.S. 27:625(G)(4) as follows:

(1) Fifty-five percent of the funds appropriated to the commission pursuant to this Section shall be allocated and provided to the Horsemen's Bookkeeper to be used as purses at the licensed racing associations in the state that conduct live horse

1        racing on the basis of the proportion of the number of thoroughbred race days each  
2        association conducted for the preceding year bears to the total number of  
3        thoroughbred race days conducted statewide for the preceding year, and such funds  
4        shall be used solely to supplement purses in accordance with a schedule or formula  
5        established by the purse committee of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders  
6        Association.

7                (2) Twenty-four percent of the funds appropriated to the commission  
8        pursuant to this Section shall be allocated and provided to the Horsemen's  
9        Bookkeeper to be used as purses at the licensed racing associations in the state which  
10       conduct live horse racing on the basis of the proportion of the number of quarter  
11       horse race days each association conducted for the preceding year bears to the total  
12       number of quarter horse race days conducted statewide for the preceding year, and  
13       such funds shall be used solely to supplement purses in accordance with a schedule  
14       or formula established by the purse committee of the Louisiana Quarter Horse  
15       Breeders Association.

16               (3) Fourteen percent of the funds appropriated to the commission pursuant  
17       to this Section shall be allocated and provided to the Louisiana Thoroughbred  
18       Breeders Association to be used for breeder awards.

19               (4) Seven percent of the funds appropriated to the commission pursuant to  
20       this Section shall be allocated and provided to the Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders  
21       Association to be used for breeder awards.

22                                \*        \*        \*

23        Section 2. R.S. 27:44(22), 205(30), 602(introductory paragraph), (19), and (22), and  
24        625(G)(4) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 27:86(E), 249.1(E),  
25        603(A)(2)(a)(xvii), 608(B)(3), and 612 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

26        §44. Definitions

27                                \*        \*        \*

28                (22)(a) "Racehorse wagering" means wagers placed on horse racing  
29        conducted under the pari-mutuel form of wagering at licensed racing facilities that

is accepted by a licensed racehorse wagering operator under the provisions of this Chapter.

(b) "Fixed odds wagering on horse races" means the acceptance of sports wagers on a sports event of a live or simulcast horse race with predetermined odds. Fixed odds wagering on horse races shall only occur in strict compliance with R.S. 27:612. The wager may be combined with other sports wagers on other sporting events as authorized by this Chapter.

\* \* \*

§86. Issuance of permit to conduct racehorse wagering

\* \* \*

E. Acceptance of fixed odds wagering on horse races shall only be conducted pursuant to R.S. 27:612.

\* \* \*

§205. Definitions

When used in this Chapter, the following terms have these meanings:

\* \* \*

(30)(a) "Racehorse wagering" means wagers placed on horse racing conducted under the pari-mutuel form of wagering at licensed racing facilities that are accepted by a licensed racehorse wagering operator in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(b) "Fixed odds wagering on horse races" means the acceptance of sports wagers on a sports event of a live or simulcast horse race with predetermined odds. Fixed odds wagering on horse races shall only occur in strict compliance with R.S. 27:612. The wager may be combined with other sports wagers on other sporting events as authorized by this Chapter.

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§249.1. Issuance of permit to conduct racehorse wagering

\* \* \*

E. Acceptance of fixed odds wagering on horse races shall only be conducted pursuant to R.S. 27:612.

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## 1           §602. Definitions

2                   For purposes of this Chapter, the following terms ~~shall~~ have the following  
3 meanings ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

4   \*       \*       \*

5                   (19)(a) "Racehorse wagering" means wagers placed on horse racing  
6 conducted under the pari-mutuel form of wagering that are accepted by an offtrack  
7 wagering facility licensee as defined in R.S. 4:211 in accordance with the provisions  
8 of Chapter 4 of Title 4 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and a board and  
9 Louisiana State Racing Commission approved agreement between the licensee and  
10 the offtrack wagering facility licensee or a board and Louisiana State Racing  
11 Commission approved plan of operation.

12                   (b) "Fixed odds wagering on horse races" means the acceptance of sports  
13 wagers on a sports event of a live or simulcast horse race with predetermined odds.  
14 Fixed odds wagering on horse races shall only occur in strict compliance with R.S.  
15 27:612. The wager may be combined with other sports wagers on other sporting  
16 events as authorized by this Chapter.

17   \*       \*       \*

18                   (22)(a) "Sports event" means any professional sport or athletic event, any  
19 collegiate sport or athletic event, any amateur sport or athletic event, any Olympic  
20 or international sports competition event, any competitive video game or other  
21 electronic sports event, or any other special event or competition of relative skill as  
22 authorized by the board to be a sports event for purposes of this Chapter.

23                   (b) A "sports event" may include racing as defined in R.S. 4:143 and subject  
24 to the requirements set forth in R.S. 27:612.

25                   (c) "Sports event" shall not include high school sports, youth events, any  
26 international sports events where the majority of the participants are under the age  
27 of eighteen years, fantasy sports contests as provided in Chapter 6 of this Title, and  
28 any event prohibited by law.

29   \*       \*       \*

§603. Gaming Control Board; state police; duties and powers

A.

\* \* \*

(2)(a) In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the board shall:

\* \* \*

(xvii) Establish guidelines for the acceptance of fixed odds horse race wagers pursuant to R.S. 27:612.

\* \* \*

§608. Limitations on wagering

\* \* \*

B.

\* \* \*

(3) An operator shall not knowingly accept a wager from a person who is a jockey; horseman as defined in R.S. 4:143, including their employees; or a racing official as defined in R.S. 4:143 who is participating in the horse racing sports event on which the person is attempting to place the wager.

\* \* \*

§612. Fixed odds wagering on horse races

A. "Fixed odds wagering on horse races" means the acceptance of sports wagers on a sports event of a live or simulcast horse race with predetermined odds.

B. "Fixed odds wager on horse races" means a sum of money or representation of value risked by a player on an occurrence associated with a sports event involving race horses for which the outcome is uncertain. The term includes single-race bets, teaser bets, moneyline bets, in-race wagering, proposition bets, straight bets, and parlays.

(1) Net gaming proceeds from all fixed odds wagers on horse races, other than parlays, shall be allocated as provided in R.S. 27:625(G)(4)(a)(ii) and shall be credited to the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund established by R.S. 4:200.

(2) Net gaming proceeds from all fixed odds wagers on horse races, in conjunction with a parlay bet with other sports events, excluding another horse racing event, shall be allocated as provided in R.S. 27:625(G)(4)(a)(i) and shall be credited to the Sports Wagering Purse Supplement Fund established by R.S. 4:199.

C.(1) The licensee or its sports wagering platform may accept fixed odds wagers on horse races conducted out of state, in accordance with the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978, 15 U.S.C. 3001, et seq.

(2) The licensee or its sports wagering platform may accept fixed odds wagers on horse races conducted in this state after obtaining consent of the host racetrack and the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.

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§625. State tax; levy

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G. After complying with the provisions of Subsection D of this Section, each fiscal year the state treasurer shall credit the following amounts to the following funds:

\* \* \*

(4)(a)(i) Two and one-half percent of the monies collected pursuant to this Section shall be credited to the Sports Wagering Purse Supplement Fund established by R.S. 4:199.

(ii) Five percent of the net gaming proceeds from fixed odds wagering on horse races shall be credited to the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund established by R.S. 4:200.

(b)(i) Monies in the Sports Wagering Purse Supplement Fund shall only be withdrawn pursuant to an appropriation by the legislature and monies shall be appropriated to the Louisiana State Racing Commission solely for the uses and in proportion provided in R.S. 4:199.

(ii) Monies in the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund shall  
only be withdrawn pursuant to an appropriation by the legislature and monies shall

