

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 503

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBBY CARTER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

RACING/HORSE: Provides relative to horse racing

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 4:141 and 147(A)(2)(d) and R.S. 27:607, relative to horse racing;
3 to provide with respect to the horse racing industry; to provide for legislative intent;
4 to provide for the powers and duties of the Louisiana State Racing Commission; to
5 provide with respect to pari-mutuel wagering; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 4:141 and 147(A)(2)(d) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
8 as follows:

9 §141. Legislative intent and policy

10 A. The legislature hereby finds and declares it to be the public policy of this
11 state that pari-mutuel wagering facilities which offer live horse racing have
12 historically made great contributions to the economic development of the state at
13 large and particularly the agricultural and horse breeding industries.

14 B. It is the policy of the state of Louisiana in furtherance of its responsibility
15 to provide revenues for the operation of state government for its people, to
16 acknowledge and declare that the providing of funds and financial assistance to
17 licensed horse racing tracks in the state of Louisiana constitutes an authorized public
18 function and purpose of the state of Louisiana, to encourage forceful and honest
19 statewide control of horse racing for the public health, safety, and welfare by
20 safeguarding the people of this state against corrupt, incompetent, dishonest and
21 unprincipled horse racing practices;

(1) To institute and maintain a program to encourage and permit development of the business of horse racing with pari-mutuel wagering thereon on a high plane.

(2) To institute and maintain a program to encourage and permit development of the breeding and ownership of race horses in the state.

(3) To institute and maintain a regulatory program for the business of racing horses, which program assures the protection of public health, safety and welfare, vesting with the commission forceful statewide control of horse racing with full powers to prescribe rules and regulations and conditions under which all horse racing is conducted with wagering upon the result thereof with the state.

(4) To institute and maintain a program to provide financial assistance that will encourage and permit the development of the business of horse racing by licensed horse racing tracks in the state of Louisiana.

(5) To institute and provide a program for the regulation, ownership, possession, licensing, keeping, and inoculation of animals on premises under its control and supervision not inconsistent with the rules and regulations of the state livestock and sanitary board.

~~B. C.~~ This Chapter is an exercise of the police powers of the state to promote the public health, safety and welfare.

* * *

§147. Specific duties of commission

A. The commission shall carry out the provisions of this Part, including the following specific duties:

* * *

(2)

* * *

(d) The commission may appoint up to three other stewards to be compensated by it and assign to each such duties as are consistent with this Part; however, such other stewards shall not serve as a steward in the stewards stand

1 during any race meeting conducted under the provisions of this Part, except with the
2 written consent of the association conducting such race meeting.

3 * * *

4 Section 2. R.S. 27:607 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

5 §607. Operators; sports lounge required; responsibilities; pooling

6 * * *

7 H.

8 * * *

9 (2) A sports wagering licensee that is an association as defined in R.S. 4:143
10 and is also the holder of a license as defined in R.S. 27:353 and provided for in
11 Chapter 7 of this Title may conduct pari-mutuel wagering in its retail sports book
12 lounge if the pari-mutuel wagering is conducted in accordance with a board and the
13 Louisiana State Racing Commission approved plan of operation as required in R.S.
14 4:213(C).

15 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 503 Original

2025 Regular Session

Robby Carter

Abstract: Provides relative to horse racing.

Present law provides for legislative intent regarding horse racing.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that the legislature hereby finds and declares it to be the public policy of this state that pari-mutuel wagering facilities which offer live horse racing have historically made great contributions to the economic development of the state at large and particularly the agricultural and horse breeding industries.

Present law provides for the La. State Racing Commission's (commission) ability to appoint stewards.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that the commission may appoint up to three stewards.

Present law provides for who may conduct pari-mutuel wagering in its retail sports book lounge if the pari-mutuel wagering is conducted in accordance with a La. Gaming Control Board and commission approved plan of operation as required.

Proposed law adds clarification language.

(Amends R.S. 4:141 and 147(A)(2)(d) and R.S. 27:607)