

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 547

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOYER

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

RACING/HORSE: Authorizes fixed odds wagering on horse races

1 AN ACT

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

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

15 §149. Wagering; rules and regulations

16 A. The commission may prescribe rules and regulations under which shall
17 be conducted all horse races upon the results of which there is wagering. The
18 commission shall, as may be necessary, prescribe additional special rules and
19 regulations applicable separately to thoroughbreds and quarter horses. The
20 commission shall make rules governing, permitting, and regulating the wagering on

1 horse races under the form of mutuel wagering by patrons, known as pari-mutuel
2 wagering, whether on live or historical horse races. Only those persons receiving a
3 license from the commission may conduct this type of wagering, and shall restrict
4 this form of wagering to any space within the race meeting grounds or an offtrack
5 wagering facility, as determined solely by the commission. ~~All~~ Except as provided
6 in R.S. 27:612, all other forms of wagering on the result of horse races are illegal.

7 * * *

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

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

12 B. Any appropriation by the legislature to the commission from the fund
13 shall be utilized to supplement purses as provided in this Section.

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

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

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

23 (1) Seventy percent of the funds appropriated to the commission pursuant to
24 this Section shall be allocated and provided to the licensed racing associations in the
25 state that conduct live horse racing on the basis of the proportion of the number of
26 thoroughbred race days each association conducted for the preceding year bears to
27 the total number of thoroughbred race days conducted statewide for the preceding
28 year, and such funds shall be used solely to supplement purses in accordance with

1 a schedule or formula established by the purse committee of the Louisiana
2 Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

3 (2) Thirty percent of the funds appropriated to the commission pursuant to
4 this Section shall be allocated and provided to the licensed racing associations in the
5 state which conduct live horse racing on the basis of the proportion of the number
6 of quarter horse race days each association conducted for the preceding year bears
7 to the total number of quarter horse race days conducted statewide for the preceding
8 year, and such funds shall be used solely to supplement purses in accordance with
9 a schedule or formula established by the purse committee of the Louisiana Quarter
10 Horse Breeders Association.

11 * * *

12 Section 2. R.S. 27:44(22), 205(30), 602(introductory paragraph), (19), and (22), and
13 625(G)(4) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 27:86(E), 249.1(E),
14 603(A)(2)(a)(xvii), 608(B)(3), and 612 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §44. Definitions

16 * * *

17 (22)(a) "Racehorse wagering" means wagers placed on horse racing
18 conducted under the pari-mutuel form of wagering at licensed racing facilities that
19 is accepted by a licensed racehorse wagering operator under the provisions of this
20 Chapter.

21 (b) "Fixed odds wagering on horse races" means the acceptance of sports
22 wagers on a sports event of a live or simulcast horse race with predetermined odds.
23 Fixed odds wagering on horse races shall only occur in strict compliance with R.S.
24 27:612. The wager may be combined with other sports wagers on other sporting
25 events as authorized by this Chapter.

26 * * *

27 §86. Issuance of permit to conduct racehorse wagering

28 * * *

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

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

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§602. Definitions

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

* * *

(19)(a) "Racehorse wagering" means wagers placed on horse racing conducted under the pari-mutuel form of wagering that are accepted by an offtrack wagering facility licensee as defined in R.S. 4:211 in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4 of Title 4 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and a board and

Louisiana State Racing Commission approved agreement between the licensee and the offtrack wagering facility licensee or a board and Louisiana State Racing Commission approved plan of operation.

(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.

* * *

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

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

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

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

A.

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(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. 27:622.

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§608. Limitations on wagering

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B.

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(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 event other than 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 recognized horseman's group.

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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 be appropriated to the Louisiana State Racing Commission solely for the uses and in proportion provided in R.S. 4:200.

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Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

- 1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.
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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 547 Original

2025 Regular Session

Boyer

Abstract: Authorizes fixed odds wagering on horse races.

Proposed law defines "fixed odds wagering on horse races" as the acceptance of sports wagers on a sports event of a live or simulcast horse race with predetermined odds.

Proposed law defines a "fixed odds wager on horse races" as 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.

Proposed law authorizes the conducting of fixed odds wagering on horse races.

Proposed law creates the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund.

Proposed law provides that 70% of the monies in the fund goes to thoroughbred racing and 30% goes to quarter horse racing for purse supplements.

Proposed law provides that 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.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 4:149(A) and R.S. 27:44(22), 205(30), 602(intro. para.), (19), and (22), and 625(G)(4); Adds R.S. 4:200 and R.S. 27:86(E), 249.1(E), 603(A)(2)(a)(xvii), 608(B)(3), and 612)