

Existing law provides for the distribution of monies from horse racing for purses to and benefits from the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA) to permittees licensed to race horses in the state. Provides that the distribution of those monies by HBPA be for the use and benefit of permittees, their employees, and others for hospital and medical benefits, and for the administrative expenses in providing these benefits.

New law retains existing law and provides that "hospital and medical benefits" include but are not limited to reasonable medical, surgical, hospitalization, physical rehabilitation, and dental and optical services, death benefits, drug and alcohol counseling, and other spiritual, mental, and psychological services provided for the welfare of permittees, their employees, and others.

New law further specifies that "hospital and medical benefits" also include one-time benevolence payments to persons in the equine industry who are in financial need as a result of serious illness or injury, fire, or natural disaster, including but not limited to hurricane, tornado, or flood.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Adds R.S. 4:183(C))