

AN ACT

relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Racing Commission, the abolishment of the Equine Research Account Advisory Committee, and the authority of Texas AgriLife Research; providing an administrative penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 1.03, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by amending Subdivision (52) and adding Subdivisions (80) and (81) to read as follows:

(52) "Performance" means the consecutive running of a specified number of greyhound races as determined by the commission [~~not more than 13 greyhound races~~].

(80) "Active license" means a racetrack license designated by the commission as active.

(81) "Inactive license" means a racetrack license designated by the commission as inactive.

SECTION 2. Section 2.071, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2.071. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. (a) A person may not be a member of the commission and may not be a commission employee employed in a "bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity," as that phrase is used for purposes of establishing an exemption to the overtime provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. Section 201 et seq.), if:

1 (1) the person is an ~~[An]~~ officer, employee, or paid
2 consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of horse or
3 greyhound racing or breeding; or

4 (2) the person's ~~[may not be a member of the commission~~
5 ~~or an employee of the commission who is exempt from the state's~~
6 ~~position classification plan or is compensated at or above the~~
7 ~~amount prescribed by the General Appropriations Act for step 1,~~
8 ~~salary group 17, of the position classification salary schedule.~~

9 ~~[(b) A person who is the]~~ spouse is ~~[of]~~ an officer,
10 manager, or paid consultant of a Texas trade association in the
11 field of horse or greyhound racing or breeding ~~[may not be a member~~
12 ~~of the commission and may not be an employee of the commission who~~
13 ~~is exempt from the state's position classification plan or is~~
14 ~~compensated at or above the amount prescribed by the General~~
15 ~~Appropriations Act for step 1, salary group 17, of the position~~
16 ~~classification salary schedule].~~

17 (b) A person may not be a member of the commission or act as
18 the general counsel to the commission if the person is required to
19 register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government Code, because
20 of the person's activities for compensation on behalf of a
21 profession related to the operation of the commission.

22 (c) In ~~[For the purposes of]~~ this section, "Texas trade
23 association" means ~~[a Texas trade association is]~~ a cooperative and
24 voluntarily joined statewide ~~[nonprofit]~~ association of business
25 or professional competitors in this state designed to assist its
26 members and its industry or profession in dealing with mutual
27 business or professional problems and in promoting their common

1 interest.

2 SECTION 3. Article 2, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,
3 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 2.25
4 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 2.25. NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
6 RESOLUTION PROCEDURES. (a) The commission shall develop and
7 implement a policy to encourage the use of:

8 (1) negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter
9 2008, Government Code, for the adoption of commission rules; and

10 (2) appropriate alternative dispute resolution
11 procedures under Chapter 2009, Government Code, to assist in the
12 resolution of internal and external disputes under the commission's
13 jurisdiction.

14 (b) The commission's procedures relating to alternative
15 dispute resolution shall conform, to the extent possible, to any
16 model guidelines issued by the State Office of Administrative
17 Hearings for the use of alternative dispute resolution by state
18 agencies.

19 (c) The commission shall:

20 (1) coordinate the implementation of the policy
21 adopted under Subsection (a) of this section;

22 (2) provide training as needed to implement the
23 procedures for negotiated rulemaking or alternative dispute
24 resolution; and

25 (3) collect data concerning the effectiveness of those
26 procedures.

27 SECTION 4. Sections 3.07(b) and (e), Texas Racing Act

1 (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), are amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (b) The commission shall make rules specifying the
4 authority and the duties of each official, including the power of
5 stewards or judges to impose penalties for unethical practices or
6 violations of racing rules. A penalty imposed by the stewards or
7 judges may include a fine of not more than \$5,000, a suspension for
8 not more than one year, or both a fine and suspension. Before
9 imposing a penalty under this subsection, the stewards and judges
10 shall conduct a hearing that is consistent with constitutional due
11 process. A hearing conducted by a steward or judge under this
12 subsection is not subject to Chapter 2001, Government Code. A
13 decision of a steward or judge is subject to review by the executive
14 director, who may modify the penalty. A penalty modified by the
15 executive director under this section may include a fine not to
16 exceed \$10,000, a suspension not to exceed two years, or both a fine
17 and a suspension. A decision of a steward or judge that is not
18 reviewed or modified by the executive director is a final decision.
19 Any decision of a steward or judge may be appealed under Section
20 3.08(a) of this Act regardless of whether the decision is modified
21 by the executive director. [~~If, in the opinion of the stewards or~~
22 ~~judges, the allowable penalties are not sufficient, the stewards or~~
23 ~~judges may refer the case to the commission for further action.]~~

24 (e) To pay the charges associated with the medication or
25 drug testing, an association may use the money held by the
26 association to pay outstanding tickets and pari-mutuel vouchers.
27 If additional amounts are needed to pay the charges, the

1 association shall pay those additional amounts. [~~If the amount~~
2 ~~held exceeds the amount needed to pay the charges, the association~~
3 ~~shall pay the excess to the commission in accordance with Section~~
4 ~~11.08 of this Act.~~]

5 SECTION 5. Section 3.09(b), Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,
6 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

7 (b) The commission shall deposit the money it collects under
8 this Act in the State Treasury to the credit of a special fund to be
9 known as the Texas Racing Commission fund. The Texas Racing
10 Commission fund may be appropriated only for the administration and
11 enforcement of this Act. Any unappropriated money exceeding
12 \$750,000 that remains [~~remaining~~] in the [~~that special~~] fund at the
13 close of each fiscal biennium shall be transferred to the General
14 Revenue Fund and may be appropriated for any legal purpose. The
15 legislature may also appropriate money from the General Revenue
16 Fund for the administration and enforcement of this Act. Any amount
17 of general revenue appropriated for the administration and
18 enforcement of this Act in excess of the cumulative amount
19 deposited in the Texas Racing Commission fund shall be reimbursed
20 from the Texas Racing Commission fund not later than one year after
21 the date on which the general revenue funds are appropriated, with
22 [~~12 percent interest per year until August 31, 1993, and~~] 6-3/4
23 percent interest [~~thereafter~~] with all payments first attributable
24 to interest.

25 SECTION 6. Sections 5.03(a) and (c), Texas Racing Act
26 (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), are amended to read
27 as follows:

1 (a) An applicant for any license or license renewal under
2 this Act must, except as allowed under Section 7.10 of this Act,
3 submit to the commission a complete set of fingerprints of the
4 individual natural person applying for the license or license
5 renewal or, if the applicant is not an individual natural person, a
6 complete set of fingerprints of each officer or director and of each
7 person owning an interest of at least five percent in the applicant.
8 The Department of Public Safety may request any person owning any
9 interest in an applicant for a racetrack license to submit a
10 complete set of fingerprints.

11 (c) A peace officer of this or any other state, or any
12 district office of the commission, shall take the fingerprints of
13 an applicant for a license or license renewal on forms approved and
14 furnished by the Department of Public Safety and shall immediately
15 deliver them to the commission.

16 SECTION 7. Article 6, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,
17 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 6.032
18 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 6.032. BOND. (a) The commission at any time may
20 require a holder of a racetrack license or an applicant for a
21 racetrack license to post security in an amount reasonably
22 necessary, as provided by commission rule, to adequately ensure the
23 license holder's or applicant's compliance with substantive
24 requirements of this Act and commission rules.

25 (b) Cash, cashier's checks, surety bonds, irrevocable bank
26 letters of credit, United States Treasury bonds that are readily
27 convertible to cash, or irrevocable assignments of federally

1 insured deposits in banks, savings and loan institutions, and
2 credit unions are acceptable as security for purposes of this
3 section. The security must be:

4 (1) conditioned on compliance with this Act and
5 commission rules adopted under this Act; and

6 (2) returned after the conditions of the security are
7 met.

8 SECTION 8. The heading to Section 6.04, Texas Racing Act
9 (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 Sec. 6.04. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE [~~+~~ BOND].

12 SECTION 9. Section 6.04, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,
13 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Subsections
14 (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

15 (a-1) When all of the requirements of licensure for the
16 applicant described in this article have been satisfied, the
17 commission shall notify the applicant that the application is
18 complete.

19 (a-2) The commission shall make a determination with
20 respect to a pending application not later than the 120th day after
21 the date on which the commission provided to the applicant the
22 notice required under Subsection (a-1) of this section.

23 SECTION 10. Section 6.06(k), Texas Racing Act (Article
24 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as
25 follows:

26 (k) The commission shall review the ownership and
27 management of an active [~~a~~] license issued under this article every

1 five years beginning on the fifth anniversary of the issuance of the
2 license. In performing the review, the commission may require the
3 license holder to provide any information that would be required to
4 be provided in connection with an original license application
5 under Article 5 of this Act or this article. The commission shall
6 charge fees for the review in amounts sufficient to implement this
7 subsection.

8 SECTION 11. Article 6, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,
9 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Sections
10 6.0601, 6.0602, and 6.0603 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 6.0601. DESIGNATION OF ACTIVE AND INACTIVE RACETRACK
12 LICENSES. (a) The commission shall designate each racetrack
13 license as an active license or an inactive license. The commission
14 may change the designation of a racetrack license as appropriate.

15 (b) The commission shall designate a racetrack license as an
16 active license if the license holder:

17 (1) holds live racing events at the racetrack; or

18 (2) makes good faith efforts to conduct live racing.

19 (c) The commission by rule shall provide guidance on what
20 actions constitute, for purposes of this Act, good faith efforts to
21 conduct live racing.

22 (d) Before the first anniversary of the date a new racetrack
23 license is issued, the commission shall conduct an evaluation of
24 the license to determine whether the license is an active or
25 inactive license.

26 (e) An active license is effective until the license is
27 designated as an inactive license or is surrendered, suspended, or

1 revoked under this Act.

2 Sec. 6.0602. RENEWAL OF INACTIVE RACETRACK LICENSE; FEES.

3 (a) The commission by rule shall establish an annual renewal
4 process for inactive licenses and may require the license holder to
5 provide any information required for an original license
6 application under this Act. An inactive license holder must
7 complete the annual renewal process established under this section
8 until the commission:

9 (1) designates the license as an active license; or

10 (2) refuses to renew the license.

11 (b) In determining whether to renew an inactive license, the
12 commission shall consider:

13 (1) the inactive license holder's:

14 (A) financial stability;

15 (B) ability to conduct live racing;

16 (C) ability to construct and maintain a racetrack
17 facility; and

18 (D) other good faith efforts to conduct live
19 racing; and

20 (2) other necessary factors considered in the issuance
21 of the original license.

22 (c) The commission may refuse to renew an inactive license
23 if, after notice and a hearing, the commission determines that:

24 (1) renewal of the license is not in the best interests
25 of the racing industry or the public; or

26 (2) the license holder has failed to make a good faith
27 effort to conduct live racing.

1 (d) The commission shall consult with members of the racing
2 industry and other key stakeholders in developing the license
3 renewal process under this section.

4 (e) The commission shall set and collect renewal fees in
5 amounts reasonable and necessary to cover the costs of
6 administering and enforcing this section.

7 (f) The commission by rule shall establish criteria to make
8 the determinations under Subsections (c)(1) and (2).

9 Sec. 6.0603. DISCIPLINARY ACTION. (a) The commission by
10 rule shall establish procedures for disciplinary action against a
11 racetrack license holder.

12 (b) If, after notice and hearing, the commission finds that
13 a racetrack license holder or a person employed by the racetrack has
14 violated this Act or a commission rule or if the commission finds
15 during a review or renewal that the racetrack is ineligible for a
16 license under this article, the commission may:

17 (1) revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew the racetrack
18 license;

19 (2) impose an administrative penalty as provided under
20 Section 15.03 of this Act; or

21 (3) take any other action as provided by commission
22 rule.

23 (c) The commission may not revoke an active license unless
24 the commission reasonably determines that other disciplinary
25 actions are inadequate to remedy the violation.

26 SECTION 12. Section 6.08(h), Texas Racing Act (Article
27 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 (h) Two percent of the breakage shall be allocated to the
3 equine research account under Subchapter F, Chapter 88 [~~51~~],
4 Education Code. The remaining 98 percent of the breakage shall
5 constitute "total breakage" and shall be allocated pursuant to
6 Subsections (i) and (j) of this section.

7 SECTION 13. The heading to Section 6.18, Texas Racing Act
8 (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 Sec. 6.18. ANNUAL FEE FOR RACETRACK [~~TERM OF~~] LICENSE [~~+~~
11 ~~RESTRICTIONS ON RACETRACKS~~].

12 SECTION 14. Section 6.18(b), Texas Racing Act (Article
13 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 (b) The commission may prescribe a reasonable annual fee to
16 be paid by each racetrack licensee. The fee must be in an amount
17 sufficient to provide that the total amount of fees imposed under
18 this section, together with the license fees prescribed under
19 Section 5.01(b) of this Act and the renewal fees prescribed under
20 Section 6.0602(e) of this Act, is sufficient to pay the costs of
21 administering and enforcing this Act.

22 SECTION 15. Section 7.01, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,
23 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

24 Sec. 7.01. LICENSE REQUIRED. (a) Except as provided by
25 this section, a [A] person may not participate in racing with
26 pari-mutuel wagering other than as a spectator or as a person
27 placing a wager without first obtaining a license from the

1 commission. A person may not engage in any occupation for which
2 commission rules require a license under this Act without first
3 obtaining a license from the commission.

4 (b) The commission by rule shall categorize the occupations
5 of racetrack employees and determine the occupations that afford
6 the employee an opportunity to influence racing with pari-mutuel
7 wagering. The rules must require the following employees to be
8 licensed under this Act:

9 (1) an employee who works in an occupation determined
10 by the commission to afford the employee an opportunity to
11 influence racing with pari-mutuel wagering; or

12 (2) an employee who will likely have significant
13 access to the backside of a racetrack or to restricted areas of the
14 frontside of a racetrack.

15 (c) A racetrack licensed under this Act is responsible for
16 ensuring that its employees comply with this Act and commission
17 rules. The commission may impose disciplinary action against a
18 licensed racetrack for violations of this Act and commission rules
19 by its employees as provided by Section 6.0603 of this Act.

20 SECTION 16. Section 7.07, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,
21 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by amending Subsection
22 (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

23 (a) A license issued under this article is valid for a
24 period set by the commission not to exceed 36 months following the
25 date of its issuance. It is renewable on application, satisfactory
26 results of a criminal history information record check, and payment
27 of the fee in accordance with the rules of the commission.

1 (a-1) The commission shall obtain criminal history record
2 information on each applicant renewing an occupational license
3 under this article. The commission shall ensure that criminal
4 history record information is obtained on each license holder at
5 least once every 36 months.

6 SECTION 17. Section 11.01, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,
7 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by amending Subsection
8 (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

9 (a) The commission shall adopt rules to regulate wagering on
10 greyhound races and horse races under the system known as
11 pari-mutuel wagering. Wagering may be conducted only by an
12 association within its enclosure. A person may not accept, in
13 person, by telephone, or over the Internet, a wager for a horse race
14 or greyhound race conducted inside or outside this state from a
15 person in this state unless the wager is authorized under this Act.

16 (a-1) The commission may commission as many investigators
17 as the commission determines necessary to enforce this Act and the
18 rules of the commission. Each investigator shall take the
19 constitutional oath of office and file it with the commission. Each
20 commissioned investigator has the powers of a peace officer.

21 SECTION 18. Sections 11.04(a) and (c), Texas Racing Act
22 (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), are amended to read
23 as follows:

24 (a) Only a person inside the enclosure where both live and
25 simulcast race meetings are authorized may wager on the result of a
26 live or simulcast race presented by the association in accordance
27 with commission rules. Except as provided by this section, a person

1 may not place, in person, by telephone, or over the Internet, a
2 wager for a horse race or greyhound race conducted inside or outside
3 this state. The commission shall adopt rules to prohibit wagering
4 by employees of the commission and to regulate wagering by persons
5 licensed under this Act.

6 (c) The commission shall adopt rules prohibiting an
7 association from accepting a wager made on credit and shall adopt
8 rules providing for the use of automatic banking machines within
9 the enclosure. The commission shall limit the use of an automatic
10 banking machine to [÷

11 [~~(1)~~] allow a person to have access to only the
12 person's checking account at a bank or other financial
13 institution[~~, and~~

14 [~~(2) deliver no more than \$200~~].

15 SECTION 19. Section 11.05, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,
16 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

17 Sec. 11.05. UNLAWFUL WAGERING. A person shall not wager on
18 the result of a greyhound race or horse race in this state except as
19 permitted by this Act. A person who is not an association under
20 this Act may not accept from a Texas resident while the resident is
21 in this state a wager on the result of a greyhound race or horse race
22 conducted inside or outside this state.

23 SECTION 20. Section 18.01(a), Texas Racing Act (Article
24 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as
25 follows:

26 (a) The Texas Racing Commission is subject to Chapter 325,
27 Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence

1 as provided by that chapter, and except as provided by Subsections
2 (b) and (c) of this section, the commission is abolished and this
3 Act expires September 1, 2017 [~~2011~~].

4 SECTION 21. Section 88.521(2), Education Code, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (2) "Director" means the executive director of Texas
7 AgriLife Research, formerly known as the Texas Agricultural
8 Experiment Station.

9 SECTION 22. Sections 88.522(b), (c), (f), and (g),
10 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

11 (b) The director shall administer the account through
12 established procedures of Texas AgriLife Research, formerly known
13 as the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

14 (c) The comptroller shall periodically transfer the amounts
15 specified by Sections [~~Section~~] 6.08(f) and (h), Texas Racing Act
16 (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), to the account.

17 (f) Not more than 10 percent of the account may be spent each
18 year on the cost incurred in the operation or administration of the
19 [~~advisory committee or~~] account.

20 (g) All money received by [~~the advisory committee or~~] the
21 account under this chapter is subject to Subchapter F, Chapter 404,
22 Government Code.

23 SECTION 23. Section 88.525, Education Code, is amended by
24 adding Subsections (a-1) and (b-1) and amending Subsection (b) to
25 read as follows:

26 (a-1) In awarding grants under this section, the director
27 shall comply with the conflict of interest provisions of The Texas

1 A&M University System.

2 (b) The [~~With the advice of the advisory committee, the~~]
3 director shall develop annually a request for proposals for equine
4 research grants. Each proposal received may [~~must~~] be evaluated by
5 a peer review committee appointed by the director and subject
6 matter experts as necessary to evaluate the proposal. The peer
7 review committee shall consider the applicant's research capacity
8 and the relevance and scientific merit of the proposal and make
9 recommendations to the director.

10 (b-1) The director may award a grant to an applicant who
11 proposes to commingle grant money awarded under this section with
12 other sources of funding or proposes to conduct research that
13 includes equine research.

14 SECTION 24. Section 88.526(a), Education Code, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 (a) The director shall prepare an annual report on equine
17 research funded under this subchapter. The director shall
18 distribute the report to the Texas Racing Commission and [~~the~~]
19 members of the Texas horse racing industry [~~advisory committee~~].
20 The director shall make copies of the report available to
21 interested parties.

22 SECTION 25. Section 88.527, Education Code, is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 Sec. 88.527. CONFERENCE. Texas AgriLife Research [~~The~~]
25 ~~Texas Agricultural Extension Service~~] shall conduct an annual
26 conference on equine research. Money from the equine research
27 account shall be used to defray the costs of the conference. The

1 conference must be designed to bring to the attention of the Texas
2 horse racing industry the latest research results and technological
3 developments in equine research. The director shall make the
4 report created under Section 88.526 available at the conference.

5 SECTION 26. The following sections of the Texas Racing Act
6 (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) are repealed:

- 7 (1) Section 2.072;
- 8 (2) Section 6.04(b);
- 9 (3) Section 6.18(a); and
- 10 (4) Section 7.02(a).

11 SECTION 27. The following sections of the Education Code
12 are repealed:

- 13 (1) Section 88.521(1);
- 14 (2) Section 88.523;
- 15 (3) Section 88.5231;
- 16 (4) Section 88.5232;
- 17 (5) Section 88.524;
- 18 (6) Section 88.5245; and
- 19 (7) Section 88.525(c).

20 SECTION 28. (a) Not later than September 1, 2012, the Texas
21 Racing Commission shall designate each racetrack license as active
22 or inactive as required by Section 6.0601, Texas Racing Act
23 (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by this
24 Act.

25 (b) The Texas Racing Commission by rule shall establish a
26 staggered schedule and the procedure for the review of licenses
27 required under Section 6.06(k), Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,

1 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as amended by this Act.

2 (c) The Texas Racing Commission may adjust license renewal
3 and review fees pursuant to the commission's authority to adjust
4 fees under Section 5.01, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e, Vernon's
5 Texas Civil Statutes), and Section 6.0602, Texas Racing Act
6 (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by this
7 Act, to recover any money lost by the change in law made by this Act
8 to Section 3.07(e), Texas Racing Act (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas
9 Civil Statutes).

10 (d) As soon as practicable, the executive director of Texas
11 AgriLife Research shall submit a report to the Texas Racing
12 Commission as required by Section 88.526, Education Code, as
13 amended by this Act.

14 SECTION 29. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2271 was passed by the House on April 11, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 132, Nays 14, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2271 on May 16, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 120, Nays 20, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2271 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 5, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor