

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 812

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

RACING/HORSE: Provides relative to the maximum number of racing days

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 4:214.1, relative to horse racing facilities; to provide for racing
3 days; to provide for an agreed upon reduction of racing days; to provide for
4 thoroughbred race meets; to provide for a contingent effective date; and to provide
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 4:214.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §214.1. Minimum live racing dates; offtrack and other authorized wagering

9 A. An association shall not be licensed to conduct offtrack or other
10 authorized wagering in the state unless it conducts live horse racing for not less than
11 one hundred thirty racing days within each fifty-two week period at the facility
12 designated in its license. Of the required one hundred thirty racing days, not less
13 than eighty-four days shall be thoroughbred horse racing days conducted during
14 twenty-one consecutive weeks and not less than forty-six days shall be quarter horse
15 racing days conducted during twelve consecutive weeks. The foregoing minimum
16 racing requirements are mandatory unless the association is prevented from live
17 racing as a result of a natural disaster, an act of God, force majeure, a catastrophe,
18 or such other occurrence over which the association has no control. When a
19 pari-mutuel wagering facility and a related offtrack betting facility are sold, the

1 purchaser shall conduct the minimum number of live racing days, including the
2 minimum quarter horse racing days, required by this Section as a condition of
3 operating the offtrack betting facility.

4 B. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, at any facility
5 subject to the provisions of R.S. 27:372.1(A), ~~such~~ the facility shall maintain a
6 minimum of eighty thoroughbred horse racing days conducted during twenty
7 consecutive weeks and not less than ~~ten~~ fifteen days of quarter horse racing
8 conducted during ~~three~~ five consecutive weeks. The racing days provided for in this
9 Subsection shall be conducted within a fifty-two week period. The foregoing
10 minimum racing requirements are mandatory unless the association is prevented
11 from live racing as a result of a natural disaster, an act of God, force majeure, a
12 catastrophe, or such other occurrence over which the association has no control.
13 When a pari-mutuel wagering facility and a related offtrack betting facility are sold,
14 the purchaser shall conduct the minimum number of live racing days, including the
15 minimum quarter horse racing days, required by this Section as a condition of
16 operating the offtrack betting facility.

17 Section 2. This Act shall become effective if and when the Class Action Settlement
18 Agreement in the lawsuit Soileau v. Churchill Downs La. Horseracing Co., Parish of
19 Orleans, Civil District Court, Division G, No. 2014-3873, is approved by the Court and
20 becomes final and non-appealable. Contingent upon this approval, as confirmed by a final
21 and non-appealable judgment, any amounts of purses from net video draw poker device
22 revenue collected but not yet distributed on the date the amended statute is made effective
23 shall be allocated and distributed according to the amended statute, using the same formula
24 provided therein.

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 812 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

Abstract: Makes changes to the number of minimum race days a facility is required to conduct.

Present law requires an association to conduct live horse racing for not less than 130 racing days within each of two 52 week periods in order to be licensed to conduct offtrack or other authorized wagering.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires not less than 84 of the required 130 racing days be thoroughbred racing days conducted during 21 consecutive weeks and not less than 46 days to be quarter horse racing days conducted during 12 consecutive weeks.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law creates certain exceptions to these rules.

Proposed law retains the exceptions provided in present law.

Present law provides procedures, relative to these requirements, to be followed when the facility is sold.

Proposed law retains the procedures provided in present law.

Present law requires any facility subject to the provisions of present law to maintain a minimum of 80 thoroughbred horse racing days conducted during 20 consecutive weeks.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires any facility subject to the provisions of present law to maintain not less than 10 days of quarter horse racing conducted during three consecutive weeks.

Proposed law changes present law to require the facility to maintain not less than 15 days of quarter horse racing conducted during five consecutive weeks.

Proposed law provides a contingent effective date.

(Amends R.S. 4:214.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Remove proposed law which allows the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and the involved licensed eligible facility to approve a reduction in racing days for a specific thoroughbred meet, and allows that written agreement to satisfy the racing day requirements of present law.

2. Add a contingent effective date which makes proposed law become effective upon a final and non-appealable class action settlement agreement being approved by a court.
3. Make technical changes.