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## DIGEST

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Martiny

HB No. 78

**Abstract:** Amends the definition of an eligible facility to provide for conducting less than 80 racing days in a consecutive 20-week period for force majeure.

Present law provides that for the purposes of slot machine gaming an "eligible facility" means no more than one facility in St. Landry Parish, Bossier Parish, Orleans Parish, and Calcasieu Parish at which the Louisiana State Racing Commission has licensed the conduct or at which the commission has approved the future licensing of the conduct of not less than 80 days within a consecutive 20-week period each year of live horse race meetings.

Proposed law retains the provisions of present law and further provides that if the Louisiana State Racing Commission approves the conducting of less than 80 days within a 20-week period or a different consecutive or nonconsecutive period, whenever an eligible facility is prevented from conducting live racing as a result of a natural disaster, an act of God, force majeure, a catastrophe, or such other occurrence over which the eligible facility has no control that facility is still within the definition of an "eligible facility".

Proposed law further provides that this determination by the commission shall not adversely affect the status of the eligible facility to conduct slot machine gaming.

Present law provides that nothing in present law provisions of slot machine gaming shall be construed to abrogate, limit, or affect in any way the powers granted to the commission.

Proposed law provides that nothing in the present law provisions of slot machine gaming shall be construed to abrogate, limit, or diminish the powers granted to the commission.

Proposed law adds that the powers of the racing commission include but are not limited to the discretion to approve the conducting of less than 80 days within a 20-week period, whenever an eligible facility is prevented from live racing as a result of a natural disaster, an act of God, force majeure, a catastrophe, or such other occurrence over which the eligible facility has no control.

Present law provides, as one of the conditions for maintaining a license to conduct slot machine gaming, that the owner of the licensed eligible facility shall contribute to the support of pari-mutuel wagering facilities and the horse breeding industry by paying 15% annually from the annual net slot machine proceeds as follows:

- (1) 70% to supplement purses for thoroughbred races at that facility.

(2) 30% to supplement purses for quarter horse races at that facility.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that such proceeds may supplement the purses at any facility licensed by the commission to conduct additional or substitute races or race days as authorized by proposed law.

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

(Amends R.S. 27:353(4), 354, and 361(B)(4)(a)(i) and (ii); Adds R.S. 4:147.2)

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

### House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Makes technical changes to transfer provisions regarding additional powers of the La. State Racing Commission from Title 27 to Title 4 of the Revised Statutes of 1950.
2. Authorizes slot machine proceeds to supplement thoroughbred and quarter horse races at any facility licensed to conduct additional or substitute races or race days in accordance with proposed law.