

SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

**SB 53 By Senator Cortez**

**KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**

HORSE RACING. Provides for horse racing and licensing by the Louisiana State Racing Commission. (8/1/14)

**SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL**

1. Adds authority for the commission to issue licenses to operate a race track for a period up to and including ten years.
2. Legislative Bureau Amendments

**DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE**

Cortez (SB 53)

Present law provides relative to the La. State Racing Commission defines an "association" which can be licensed to conduct horse racing.

Proposed law makes technical changes to the definition of association.

Present law requires certain individuals to be licensed in order to participate in racing and authorizes the commission to impose fines and suspend a license for violations.

Proposed law provides that the commission may impose upon any licensed association a fine not to exceed \$100,000 per occurrence of a violation and may suspend a license indefinitely, or both. Provides that

Proposed law authorizes any person or corporation to apply for a license to operate a track to conduct horse racing within the state for a period up to and including ten years. Provides that these provisions do not limit the authority of the commission under state law to impose a fine or suspend an association or terminate racing privileges granted to an association.

Present law provides for a one-year and 10 year license or permit to conduct racing meetings.

Present law provides that an association may appeal the commission's decision to suspend or revoke its license or terminate their racing privileges. Provides that the appeal must be tried de novo.

Proposed law retains present law but clarifies that the appeals shall be tried de novo.

Proposed law removes the authority of the commission to issue a 10 year license or permit.

Proposed law provides that beginning January 1, 2015, the commission may require a licensed association to submit a written report that may include the following information:

- (1) The plan of operation for each fiscal year. The plan of operation may include but not be limited to customer service, marketing and promotions relative to horse racing, capital improvement, and facility maintenance. "Facility maintenance" may include but not be limited to track surface, barns, grand stands, and paddocks.
- (2) A summary of the implementation and status of the prior year's plan.

Proposed law provides that the commission may adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of proposed law, including, as appropriate, standard forms to be used for the annual report and plan of operation.

Present law provides that the commission may refuse, suspend, or withdraw licenses, permits and privileges granted by it or terminate racing privileges, under certain circumstances and for just cause.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the commission to impose fines. Further adds the following acts which constitute just cause:

- (1) Failure to meet criteria for licensing as provided in R.S. 4:159.
- (2) Failure to maintain suitable racing surfaces as determined by the commission.
- (3) Failure or inability to conduct racing in a manner that is in the best interest of racing as determined by the commission.
- (4) Failure to provide responses to inquiries made by the commission regarding the status or progress of any matter related to racing.

Proposed law shall apply to any licensee or association, regardless of this date on which the license was issued to the licensee or association.

Proposed law authorizes

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 4:143(1), 155, 158, 160, and 225; adds R.S. 4:158.1)

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