

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 130

BY REPRESENTATIVE CONNICK

A RESOLUTION

To direct the legislative auditor to perform a performance audit of the Louisiana State Racing Commission and the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and its regulatory efforts with respect to horse racing facilities and offtrack wagering facilities located in the parishes of Orleans and Jefferson, to determine whether the commission is ensuring compliance by those facilities with the health, safety, and welfare standards required by law and administrative rule, to determine whether the commission and board are enforcing compliance with respect to the allocation of resources regarding horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering as compared to the operation of video draw poker devices and slot machines, and to report its findings to the House of Representatives at least thirty days prior to the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, in 1987, the Louisiana Legislature authorized offtrack wagering at pari-mutuel wagering facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, the Louisiana Legislature authorized the operation of video draw poker devices at offtrack wagering facilities and at horse racing facilities; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Louisiana Legislature authorized slot machine gaming at eligible live horse racing facilities; and

WHEREAS, although these measures have provided much needed revenue to the horse racing industry, the primary purpose of offtrack wagering facilities and horse racing facilities is to provide live horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering to the citizens of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, horse racing has been conducted in Louisiana for more than one hundred forty years and has played a vital role in the history of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the racing industry has contributed millions of dollars to the state of Louisiana and has facilitated the ownership, breeding, and racing of quality horses in this state; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 276 of the 1940 Regular Session of the Legislature established the Louisiana State Racing Commission; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law requires the Louisiana State Racing Commission to institute and maintain a regulatory program for the business of racing horses which assures the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare by safeguarding the people of this state against corrupt, incompetent, dishonest, and unprincipled horse racing practices through the comprehensive regulation and control of the horse racing industry; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Racing Commission has adopted rules which provide that a veterinarian shall ensure that horses are stabled in individual box stalls with separate feeding and watering facilities, that the stables and immediate surrounding area are maintained in approved sanitary conditions at all times, that satisfactory drainage is provided, and that manure and other refuse are promptly and properly removed; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 7 of the 1996 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature created the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and provided that the board shall have the regulatory authority to regulate the operation of video draw poker devices at pari-mutuel wagering facilities and the operation of slot machines at live horse racing facilities; and

WHEREAS, the operation of video draw poker devices at pari-mutuel wagering facilities and slot machine gaming at live horse racing facilities require that percentages of revenue derived from the operation of these devices be used to contribute to the horse racing industry; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has a compelling interest in maintaining the proper racing facilities, which are essential to protecting the health and safety of the jockeys, trainers, stewards, breeders, horsemen, and patrons, as well as the horses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby direct the legislative auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Louisiana State Racing Commission and the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and their regulatory efforts with respect to horse racing facilities and offtrack wagering facilities located in the parishes of Orleans and Jefferson to determine whether the racing commission is ensuring compliance

by those facilities with the health, safety, and welfare standards required by law and administrative rule.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative auditor determine if the Louisiana State Racing Commission and the Louisiana Gaming Control Board are enforcing compliance with respect to the amount of resources any offtrack pari-mutuel wagering facility or horse racing facility located in Orleans and Jefferson parishes is allocating to the efficient and safe conducting of horse racing versus the operation of slot machines and the operation of video draw poker devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative auditor determine if the Louisiana Gaming Control Board is enforcing compliance with respect to the operation of video draw poker devices and slot machines at any offtrack pari-mutuel wagering facility or horse racing facility located in Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative auditor shall report its findings to the House of Representatives at least thirty days prior to the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES