

equine-assisted activities to contribute positively to the cognitive, physical, and social well-being of individuals.

- (13) "Trail facility" means a facility with routes planned specifically for public equine use as well as necessary support areas such as camping facilities.

Proposed law creates the La. Equine Promotion and Research Advisory Board within the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Proposed law provides that the board shall consist of eleven members appointed by the commissioner as follows:

- (1) One member who is engaged in the equine event business appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the La. Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
- (2) One member who is engaged in the trail facility business appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the La. Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
- (3) One member who is engaged in equine educational programs from an accredited postsecondary education institution in Louisiana.
- (4) One member engaged in the promotion of the equine industry appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
- (5) One member who is engaged in equine research from an accredited postsecondary education institution in Louisiana.
- (6) Two members who are engaged in equine performance.
- (7) Two members who are engage in equine racing.
- (8) One member who is an owner or operator of a therapeutic riding and rehabilitation center appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the La. Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
- (9) One member who is an owner or operator of an equine facility appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the La. Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.

Proposed law requires the commissioner, the lieutenant governor, and the president of the La. Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., or their designees, to serve as ex officio members in an advisory capacity only.

Proposed law provides for the organization and administration of the board, including provisions for nominations, the length of terms, vacancies, quorum requirements, expulsions, meeting requirements, and the appointment of officers.

Proposed law provides the board should be representative of the state's population by race and gender to ensure diversity.

Proposed law prohibits members of the board from receiving any compensation.

Proposed law requires the board to:

- (1) Advise the commissioner on the development and maintenance of the La. Equine Promotion and Research Program.
- (2) Maintain a permanent record of its proceedings.
- (3) Submit an annual report of its activities to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development and the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development by January first of each year.

Proposed law authorizes the board to:

- (1) Provide information to governmental entities upon request on subjects of concern to the equine industry and collaborate with the state or federal government on the development and administration of the program.
- (2) Cooperate with any local, state, regional, or national organization or agency engaged in activities consistent with the objectives of the program.

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner to:

- (1) Adopt rules and regulations as are necessary to administer the program.
- (2) Enter into contracts or other agreements to accomplish any purpose authorized by proposed law, including advertising, education, marketing, promotion, research, or services.

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner to accept and expend monies from any source, including gifts, contributions, donations, state appropriations, and federal grants, and to accept and use services from individuals, corporations, and governmental entities.

Proposed law requires all funds made available to the commissioner be expended only to effectuate the purposes of proposed law, including the following uses:

- (1) To attract national contests, shows, and equine events to Louisiana.
- (2) To develop and promote equine tourism through the enhancement of equine trails and camping facilities.
- (3) To support therapeutic riding and rehabilitation programs.

- (4) To develop educational programs and disseminate educational materials on the equine industry.
- (5) To support the enhancement and maintenance of public multi-use equine facilities.
- (6) To promote activities, facilities, events, and the needs of the Louisiana equine industry.
- (7) To contract for scientific research with any accredited postsecondary education institution or similar educational institution that will assist in carrying out the purposes of the program, including equine health, welfare, management, reproduction, nutrition, and general physiology.

Proposed law provides for the transfer of the board to the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry as provided by law.

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

(Adds R.S. 3:2071-2077 and R.S. 36:629(T))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill

1. Expands the definition of "trail facility" to include facilities with routes planned specifically for public equine use.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Provides that the board should be representative of the state's population by race and gender to ensure diversity.