

SENATE BILL NO. 103

BY SENATOR HENSGENS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To enact Chapter 15-A of Title 3 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 3:2071 through 2077, and R.S. 36:629(T), relative to the creation of the Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Program; to create the Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Advisory Board; to provide for the composition, powers, duties, and functions of the board; to authorize the commissioner of agriculture and forestry to adopt rules and accept certain funds; to provide for the use of funds; to provide for definitions; to provide for transfer of the board to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 15-A of Title 3 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 3:2071 through 2077, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 15-A. LOUISIANA EQUINE PROMOTION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

§2071. Legislative intent

The legislature intends by this Chapter to authorize the equine industry to establish a self-governed program to support the growth and development of the industry in Louisiana.

§2072. Name and purpose

A. The name of the program created and organized by this Chapter shall be the Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Program.

B. The purpose of the program is to support the growth and development of the equine industry in Louisiana by enhancing research, education, promotion, facilities, tourism, events, and equine-related activities throughout the state.

1 §2073. Definitions2 As used in this Chapter:3 (1) "Board" means the Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research
4 Advisory Board.5 (2) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of agriculture and
6 forestry.7 (3) "Equine" means all members of the genus Equus, regardless of age,
8 including horses, ponies, mules, donkeys, and zebras.9 (4) "Equine educational program" means any event focused on
10 improving a participant's understanding of equines.11 (5) "Equine event" means any kind of show, exposition, contest, or
12 tournament where equines are shown competitively.13 (6) "Equine facility" means any facility used to host equine events.14 (7) "Equine industry member" means any person with an interest and
15 background in the requirements of owning, breeding, showing, or managing
16 equines.17 (8) "Equine performance" means any discipline within the equine
18 industry where equines are used competitively or in exhibition.19 (9) "Equine research" means any scholarly activity conducted to collect
20 scientific data utilizing experimental design.21 (10) "Program" means the Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research
22 Program.23 (11) "Promotion of the equine industry" means the development of a
24 comprehensive marketing plan for the equine industry including a website,
25 social media, and an advertising program that includes all breeds, disciplines,
26 and equine-related activities.27 (12) "Therapeutic riding and rehabilitation center" means any
28 Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH
29 Intl.) accredited program that utilizes equine-assisted activities to contribute
30 positively to the cognitive, physical, and social well-being of individuals.

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

3 **§2074. The Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Advisory Board;**
4 **creation and organization**

5 **A. The Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Advisory Board is**
6 **hereby created within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The board**
7 **shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge.**

8 **B. The board shall consist of thirteen members appointed by the**
9 **commissioner as follows:**

10 **(1) One member who is engaged in the equine event business appointed**
11 **from a list of three persons nominated by the Louisiana Farm Bureau**
12 **Federation, Inc.**

13 **(2) One member who is engaged in the trail facility business appointed**
14 **from a list of three persons nominated by the Louisiana Farm Bureau**
15 **Federation, Inc.**

16 **(3) One member who is engaged in equine educational programs from**
17 **an accredited postsecondary education institution in Louisiana.**

18 **(4) One member engaged in the promotion of the equine industry**
19 **appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the Louisiana Farm Bureau**
20 **Federation, Inc.**

21 **(5) One member who is engaged in equine research from an accredited**
22 **postsecondary education institution in Louisiana.**

23 **(6) Two members who are engaged in equine performance.**

24 **(7) Two members who are engaged in equine racing.**

25 **(8) One member who is an owner or operator of a therapeutic riding and**
26 **rehabilitation center appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the**
27 **Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.**

28 **(9) One member who is an owner or operator of an equine facility**
29 **appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the Louisiana Farm Bureau**
30 **Federation, Inc.**

1 **(10) One member appointed from a list of three persons nominated by**
2 **the Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeder Association.**

3 **(11) One member appointed from a list of three persons nominated by**
4 **the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association.**

5 **C.(1) The commissioner, or his designee, shall serve as an ex officio**
6 **member in an advisory capacity only.**

7 **(2) The lieutenant governor, or his designee, shall serve as an ex officio**
8 **member in an advisory capacity only.**

9 **(3) The president of Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., or his**
10 **designee, shall serve as an ex officio member in an advisory capacity only.**

11 **D. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner and shall**
12 **serve terms concurrent with the term of the commissioner making the**
13 **appointment.**

14 **E. An organization authorized to make nominations for appointment to**
15 **the board shall submit its list of nominees within thirty days after the**
16 **commissioner requests the list. The commissioner shall make all appointments**
17 **to the board no later than thirty days after receiving the list of nominees. The**
18 **board should be representative of the state's population by race and gender to**
19 **ensure diversity.**

20 **F. A vacancy in the office of a member shall be filled in the same manner**
21 **as the original appointment. Persons appointed to fill vacancies shall serve for**
22 **the unexpired portion of the vacated term.**

23 **G. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum for**
24 **the transaction of business. All official actions of the board shall require the**
25 **affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the board present and voting.**

26 **H. Members of the board shall receive no compensation.**

27 **I. The board shall meet at least twice a year and may meet at other times**
28 **on the call of the chairman or any four members.**

29 **J. The board, by a vote of a majority of the members, may expel a**
30 **member for good cause shown. Good cause shall include but shall not be limited**

1 to three consecutive unexcused absences. The expulsion of a member creates a
2 vacancy in the office of the expelled member.

3 K. The board shall meet and organize as soon as practicable after
4 appointment of the members, and shall elect a chairman, vice chairman, and
5 secretary-treasurer from the membership of the board, whose duties shall be
6 those customarily exercised by such officers or specifically designated by the
7 board. Officers shall serve a one-year term.

8 §2075. Powers and duties

9 A. The board shall:

10 (1) Advise the commissioner on the development and maintenance of the
11 Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Program.

12 (2) Maintain a permanent record of its proceedings.

13 (3) Submit an annual report of its activities to the Senate Committee on
14 Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development and the House
15 Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development by
16 January first of each year.

17 B. The board may:

18 (1) Provide information to governmental entities upon request on
19 subjects of concern to the equine industry and collaborate with the state or
20 federal government on the development and administration of the program.

21 (2) Cooperate with any local, state, regional, or national organization or
22 agency engaged in activities consistent with the objectives of the program.

23 C. The commissioner may:

24 (1) Adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to administer the
25 program. All rules and regulations shall be adopted in accordance with the
26 Administrative Procedure Act.

27 (2) Enter into contracts or other agreements to accomplish any purpose
28 authorized by this Chapter, including advertising, education, marketing,
29 promotion, research, or services.

30 §2076. Funding

1 To achieve the purposes of this Chapter, the commissioner may accept
 2 and expend monies from any source, including gifts, contributions, donations,
 3 state appropriations, and federal grants and may accept and use services from
 4 individuals, corporations, and governmental entities.

5 §2077. Use of funds

6 Funds made available to the commissioner shall be expended to
 7 effectuate the purposes of this Chapter including but not limited to the following
 8 uses:

9 (1) To attract national contests, shows, and equine events to Louisiana.

10 (2) To develop and promote equine tourism through the enhancement of
 11 equine trails and camping facilities.

12 (3) To support therapeutic riding and rehabilitation programs.

13 (4) To develop educational programs and disseminate educational
 14 materials about the equine industry.

15 (5) To support the enhancement and maintenance of public multi-use
 16 equine facilities.

17 (6) To promote activities, facilities, events, and the needs of the Louisiana
 18 equine industry.

19 (7) To contract for scientific research with any accredited postsecondary
 20 education institution or similar educational institution that will assist in
 21 carrying out the purposes of the program, including equine health, welfare,
 22 management, reproduction, nutrition, and general physiology.

23 Section 2. R.S. 36:629(T) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

24 §629. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to the
 25 Department of Agriculture and Forestry

26 * * *

27 T. The Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Advisory Board (R.S.
 28 3:2071 et seq.) is placed within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and
 29 shall perform and exercise its powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as
 30 provided by law.

1 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
5 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____