

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 547

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOYER

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

RACING/HORSE: Authorizes fixed odds wagering on horse races

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 4:149(A) and R.S. 27:44(22), 205(30), 602(introductory
3 paragraph), (19), and (22), and 625(G)(4) and to enact R.S. 4:200 and R.S. 27:86(E),
4 249.1(E), 603(A)(2)(a)(xvii), 608(B)(3), and 612, relative to pari-mutuel wagering;
5 to authorize fixed odds wagering on horse racing; to provide for definitions; to create
6 the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund; to provide a percentage of
7 proceeds to credited to the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund; to
8 provide for the allocation of monies from the fund; to provide for the limitation on
9 certain types of wagers; to provide for the duties of the Louisiana Gaming Control
10 Board; to provide for rulemaking; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for
11 related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 4:149(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 4:200 is hereby
14 enacted to read as follows:

15 §149. Wagering; rules and regulations

16 A. The commission may prescribe rules and regulations under which shall
17 be conducted all horse races upon the results of which there is wagering. The
18 commission shall, as may be necessary, prescribe additional special rules and
19 regulations applicable separately to thoroughbreds and quarter horses. The
20 commission shall make rules governing, permitting, and regulating the wagering on

1 horse races under the form of mutuel wagering by patrons, known as pari-mutuel
 2 wagering, whether on live or historical horse races. Only those persons receiving a
 3 license from the commission may conduct this type of wagering, and shall restrict
 4 this form of wagering to any space within the race meeting grounds or an offtrack
 5 wagering facility, as determined solely by the commission. ~~All~~ Except as provided
 6 in this Section or in R.S. 27:612, all other forms of wagering on the result of horse
 7 races are illegal.

* * *

9 §200. Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund; creation

10 A. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special fund to be known
 11 as the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Supplement Fund, hereafter referred to in this
 12 Section as the "fund".

13 B. Any appropriation by the legislature to the commission from the fund
 14 shall be utilized to supplement breeder awards and purses for Louisiana bred
 15 Thoroughbreds and Quarter Horses as provided in this Section.

16 C. Monies in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the same
 17 manner as monies in the state general fund. Interest earned on the investments of
 18 monies in the fund shall be deposited in and credited to the fund. Unexpended and
 19 unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the
 20 fund.

21 D. Monies in the fund shall only be withdrawn pursuant to an appropriation
 22 by the legislature solely to implement the provisions of this Section.

23 E. Each fiscal year, the commission shall allocate any appropriations
 24 received pursuant to R.S. 27:625(G)(4) as follows:

25 (1) Fifty-five percent of the funds appropriated to the commission pursuant
 26 to this Section shall be allocated and provided to the Horsemen's Bookkeeper to be
 27 used as purses at the licensed racing associations in the state that conduct live horse
 28 racing on the basis of the proportion of the number of thoroughbred race days each
 29 association conducted for the preceding year bears to the total number of

1 thoroughbred race days conducted statewide for the preceding year, and such funds
2 shall be used solely to supplement purses in accordance with a schedule or formula
3 established by the purse committee of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders
4 Association.

5 (2) Twenty-four percent of the funds appropriated to the commission
6 pursuant to this Section shall be allocated and provided to the Horsemen's
7 Bookkeeper to be used as purses at the licensed racing associations in the state which
8 conduct live horse racing on the basis of the proportion of the number of quarter
9 horse race days each association conducted for the preceding year bears to the total
10 number of quarter horse race days conducted statewide for the preceding year, and
11 such funds shall be used solely to supplement purses in accordance with a schedule
12 or formula established by the purse committee of the Louisiana Quarter Horse
13 Breeders Association.

14 (3) Fourteen percent of the funds appropriated to the commission pursuant
15 to this Section shall be allocated and provided to the Louisiana Thoroughbred
16 Breeders Association to be used for breeder awards.

17 (4) Seven percent of the funds appropriated to the commission pursuant to
18 this Section shall be allocated and provided to the Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders
19 Association to be used for breeder awards.

20 * * *

21 Section 2. R.S. 27:44(22), 205(30), 602(introductory paragraph), (19), and (22), and
22 625(G)(4) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 27:86(E), 249.1(E),
23 603(A)(2)(a)(xvii), 608(B)(3), and 612 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

24 §44. Definitions

25 * * *

26 (22)(a) "Racehorse wagering" means wagers placed on horse racing
27 conducted under the pari-mutuel form of wagering at licensed racing facilities that
28 is accepted by a licensed racehorse wagering operator under the provisions of this
29 Chapter.

1 §602. Definitions

2 For purposes of this Chapter, the following terms ~~shall~~ have the following
3 meanings ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

4 * * *

5 (19)(a) "Racehorse wagering" means wagers placed on horse racing
6 conducted under the pari-mutuel form of wagering that are accepted by an offtrack
7 wagering facility licensee as defined in R.S. 4:211 in accordance with the provisions
8 of Chapter 4 of Title 4 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and a board and
9 Louisiana State Racing Commission approved agreement between the licensee and
10 the offtrack wagering facility licensee or a board and Louisiana State Racing
11 Commission approved plan of operation.

12 (b) "Fixed odds wagering on horse races" means the acceptance of sports
13 wagers on a sports event of a live or simulcast horse race with predetermined odds.
14 Fixed odds wagering on horse races shall only occur in strict compliance with R.S.
15 27:612. The wager may be combined with other sports wagers on other sporting
16 events as authorized by this Chapter.

17 * * *

18 (22)(a) "Sports event" means any professional sport or athletic event, any
19 collegiate sport or athletic event, any amateur sport or athletic event, any Olympic
20 or international sports competition event, any competitive video game or other
21 electronic sports event, or any other special event or competition of relative skill as
22 authorized by the board to be a sports event for purposes of this Chapter.

23 (b) A "sports event" may include racing as defined in R.S. 4:143 and subject
24 to the requirements set forth in R.S. 27:612.

25 (c) "Sports event" shall not include high school sports, youth events, any
26 international sports events where the majority of the participants are under the age
27 of eighteen years, fantasy sports contests as provided in Chapter 6 of this Title, and
28 any event prohibited by law.

29 * * *

1 §603. Gaming Control Board; state police; duties and powers

2 A.

3 * * *

4 (2)(a) In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the board shall:

5 * * *

6 (xvii) Establish guidelines for the acceptance of fixed odds horse race wagers
7 pursuant to R.S. 27:622.

8 * * *

9 §608. Limitations on wagering

10 * * *

11 B.

12 * * *

13 (3) An operator shall not knowingly accept a wager from a person who is a
14 jockey, horseman as defined in R.S. 4:143, including their employees, or a racing
15 official as defined in R.S. 4:143 who is participating in the horse racing sports event
16 on which the person is attempting to place the wager.

17 * * *

18 §612. Fixed odds wagering on horse races

19 A. "Fixed odds wagering on horse races" means the acceptance of sports
20 wagers on a sports event of a live or simulcast horse race with predetermined odds.

21 B. "Fixed odds wager on horse races" means a sum of money or
22 representation of value risked by a player on an occurrence associated with a sports
23 event involving race horses for which the outcome is uncertain. The term includes
24 single-race bets, teaser bets, moneyline bets, in-race wagering, proposition bets,
25 straight bets, and parlays.

26 (1) Net gaming proceeds from all fixed odds wagers on horse races, other
27 than parlays, shall be allocated as provided in R.S. 27:625(G)(4)(a)(ii) and shall be
28 credited to the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund established by
29 R.S. 4:200.

1 be appropriated to the Louisiana State Racing Commission solely for the uses and in
2 proportion provided in R.S. 4:200.

3 * * *

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 547 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Boyer

Abstract: Authorizes fixed odds wagering on horse races.

Proposed law defines "fixed odds wagering on horse races" as the acceptance of sports wagers on a sports event of a live or simulcast horse race with predetermined odds.

Proposed law defines a "fixed odds wager on horse races" as a sum of money or representation of value risked by a player on an occurrence associated with a sports event involving race horses for which the outcome is uncertain. The term includes single-race bets, teaser bets, moneyline bets, in-race wagering, proposition bets, straight bets, and parlays.

Proposed law authorizes the conducting of fixed odds wagering on horse races.

Proposed law creates the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund.

Proposed law provides that 55% of the monies in the fund goes to thoroughbred racing and 24% goes to quarter horse racing for purse supplements.

Proposed law provides that 14% of the monies in the fund goes to the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association and 7% to the Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders Association for breeder awards.

Proposed law provides that these monies shall be issued to the Horsemen's Bookkeeper at the licensed racing association to be distributed in accordance with proposed law.

Proposed law provides that five percent of the net gaming proceeds from fixed odds wagering on horse races shall be credited to the Fixed Odds Horse Wagering Purse Supplement Fund.

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

(Amends R.S. 4:149(A) and R.S. 27:44(22), 205(30), 602(intro. para.), (19), and (22), and 625(G)(4); Adds R.S. 4:200 and R.S. 27:86(E), 249.1(E), 603(A)(2)(a)(xvii), 608(B)(3), and 612)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Redistribute monies in the fund for purse supplements and breeder awards.
3. Specify that licensees may accept fixed odds wagers with the approval of the host racetrack and the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.