

1 HOUSE BILL 367

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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5 and Patricia Roybal Caballero and Luis M. Terrazas

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO HORSE RACING; AMENDING THE TIME FRAME FOR THE
12 NUMBER OF LIVE RACE DAYS NECESSARY FOR A RACETRACK TO MAINTAIN
13 A GAMING OPERATOR'S LICENSE.

14
15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

16 SECTION 1. Section 60-1A-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,
17 Chapter 39, Section 2) is amended to read:

18 "60-1A-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Horse Racing Act:

19 A. "board" means the gaming control board;

20 B. "breakage" means the odd cents by which the
21 amount payable on each dollar wagered exceeds a multiple of
22 ten;

23 C. "commission" means the state racing commission;

24 D. "exotic wagering" means all wagering other than
25 on win, place or show, through pari-mutuel wagering;

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1 E. "export" means to send a live audiovisual
2 broadcast of a horse race in the process of being run at a
3 horse racetrack from the originating horse racetrack to another
4 location;

5 F. "guest state" means a jurisdiction, other than
6 the jurisdiction in which a horse race is run, in which a horse
7 racetrack, off-track wagering facility or other facility that
8 is a member of and subject to an interstate common pool is
9 located;

10 G. "guest track" means a horse racetrack, off-track
11 wagering facility or other licensed facility in a location
12 other than the state in which a horse race is run that is a
13 member of and subject to an interstate common pool;

14 H. "handle" means the total of all pari-mutuel
15 wagering sales, excluding refunds and cancellations;

16 I. "horse race" means a competition among
17 racehorses on a predetermined course in which the horse
18 completing the course in the least amount of time generally
19 wins;

20 J. "host state" means the jurisdiction within which
21 a sending track is located, also known as a "sending state";

22 K. "host track" means the horse racetrack from
23 which a horse race subject to an interstate common pool is
24 transmitted to members of that interstate common pool, also
25 known as a "sending track";

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1 L. "import" means to receive a live audiovisual
2 broadcast of a horse race;

3 M. "interstate common pool" means a pari-mutuel
4 pool that combines comparable pari-mutuel pools from one or
5 more locations that accept wagers on a horse race run at a
6 sending track for purposes of establishing payoff prices at the
7 pool members' locations, including pools in which pool members
8 from more than one state simultaneously combine pari-mutuel
9 pools to form an interstate common pool;

10 N. "jockey club" means an organization that
11 administers thoroughbred registration records and registers
12 thoroughbreds;

13 O. "licensed premises" means land, together with
14 all buildings, other improvements and personal property located
15 on the land, that is under the direct control of a racetrack
16 licensee, including the restricted areas, grandstand and public
17 parking areas;

18 P. "licensee" means a person licensed by the
19 commission and includes a holder of an occupational, secondary
20 or racetrack license;

21 Q. "occupational license" means a license issued by
22 the commission to a vendor or to a person having access to a
23 restricted area on the licensed premises, including a horse
24 owner, trainer, jockey, agent, apprentice, groom, exercise
25 person, veterinarian, valet, farrier, starter, clocker, racing

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1 secretary, pari-mutuel clerk and other personnel designated by
2 the commission whose work, in whole or in part, is conducted
3 around racehorses or pari-mutuel betting windows;

4 R. "pari-mutuel wagering" means a system of
5 wagering in which bets on a live or simulcast horse race are
6 pooled and held by the racetrack licensee for distribution of
7 the total amount, less the deductions authorized by law, to
8 holders of winning tickets; "pari-mutuel wagering" does not
9 include bookmaking or pool selling;

10 S. "pari-mutuel wagering pool" means the money
11 wagered on a specific horse race through pari-mutuel wagering;

12 T. "practical breeder" means a person who has
13 practical experience in breeding horses, although the person
14 may not be actively involved in breeding horses;

15 U. "primary residence" means the domicile where a
16 person resides for most of the year, and, if the person is
17 temporarily out of state, the address where a person will
18 return when the person returns to New Mexico or the address
19 that a person uses for purposes of a driver's license, passport
20 or voting;

21 V. "quarter horse" means a racehorse that is
22 registered with the American quarter horse association or any
23 successor association;

24 W. "race meet" means a period of time within dates
25 specified by the commission in which a racetrack licensee is

1 authorized to conduct and does conduct live racing on the
2 racing grounds;

3 X. "racehorse" means a quarter horse or
4 thoroughbred that is bred and trained to compete in horse
5 races;

6 Y. "racetrack license" means a license to conduct
7 horse races issued by the commission;

8 Z. "racetrack licensee" means a person who has been
9 issued a racetrack license;

10 AA. "racing grounds" means the area of the
11 restricted area of licensed premises used for the purpose of
12 conducting horse races and all activities ancillary to the
13 conduct of horse races, including the track, stable area,
14 jockey's quarters and horse training areas;

15 BB. "retainage" means money that is retained from
16 wagers on win, place and show and on exotic wagers by a
17 racetrack licensee pursuant to the Horse Racing Act;

18 CC. "restricted areas" means the stable area, the
19 area behind the pari-mutuel betting windows and anywhere on the
20 racing grounds;

21 DD. "secondary licensee" means all officers,
22 directors, shareholders, lenders or holders of evidence of
23 indebtedness of a corporation or legal entity owning a horse
24 racetrack, and all persons holding a direct or indirect
25 interest of any nature whatsoever in the horse racetrack,

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1 including interests or positions that deal with the funds of
2 the racetrack or that are administrative, policymaking or
3 supervisory;

4 EE. "simulcast" means a transmission of a live
5 audiovisual broadcast of a horse race being run at a horse
6 racetrack other than the horse racetrack or other licensed
7 facility at which the broadcast is being received for viewing
8 pursuant to a simulcasting contract;

9 FF. "stakes race" means a horse race in which
10 nominations or entry or starting fees contribute to the purse;
11 an overnight race is not a stakes race;

12 GG. "steward" means an employee of the commission
13 who supervises horse races and oversees a race meet while in
14 progress, including holding hearings regarding licensees and
15 enforcing the rules of the commission and the horse racetrack;

16 HH. "takeout" means amounts authorized by statute
17 to be deducted from the pari-mutuel wagers;

18 II. "thoroughbred" means a racehorse that is
19 registered with the jockey club;

20 JJ. "track" means the surfaced oval area on which
21 horse races are conducted; and

22 KK. "vendor" means a person who provides goods or
23 services to or in the racing grounds or restricted area of the
24 licensed premises of a horse racetrack."

25 SECTION 2. A new section of the Horse Racing Act is

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1 enacted to read:

2 "[NEW MATERIAL] RACE MEETS--LIVE RACING DAYS.--

3 A. An authorized race meet shall:

4 (1) be scheduled for a minimum of fifteen
5 weeks;

6 (2) include three live race days for each week
7 of the race meet with at least ten live races per day for a
8 racetrack licensee that in the prior fiscal year paid gaming
9 tax to the state on its net take in an amount equal to or less
10 than eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) pursuant to Section
11 60-2E-47 NMSA 1978; and

12 (3) include four live race days for each week
13 of the race meet with at least nine live races per day for a
14 racetrack licensee that in the prior fiscal year paid gaming
15 tax to the state on its net take in an amount greater than
16 eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) pursuant to Section 60-2E-47
17 NMSA 1978.

18 B. Live racing shall begin on the first day of an
19 authorized race meet and shall conclude on the final day of the
20 meet.

21 C. There shall be a lapse of no more than three
22 consecutive days in live racing from the date a race meet ends
23 at the racing grounds of one racetrack licensee and the
24 beginning of a race meet for another racetrack licensee."

25 SECTION 3. Section 60-2E-27 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1997,
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1 Chapter 190, Section 29, as amended) is amended to read:

2 "60-2E-27. GAMING OPERATOR LICENSEES--SPECIAL CONDITIONS
3 FOR RACETRACKS--NUMBER OF GAMING MACHINES--DAYS AND HOURS OF
4 OPERATIONS.--

5 A. A racetrack licensed by the state racing
6 commission pursuant to the Horse Racing Act to conduct live
7 horse races or simulcast races may be issued a gaming
8 operator's license to operate gaming machines on its premises
9 where live racing is conducted.

10 B. A racetrack's gaming operator's license shall
11 automatically become void if:

12 (1) the racetrack no longer holds an active
13 license to conduct pari-mutuel wagering;

14 (2) the racetrack paid gaming tax to the
15 state on its net take in an amount greater than eight million
16 dollars (\$8,000,000) in the prior fiscal year pursuant to
17 Section 60-2E-47 NMSA 1978 and fails to maintain a minimum of
18 four live race days a week with no more than three
19 consecutive days elapsing between live race days and with at
20 least nine live races on each race day during its licensed
21 race meet, except as provided in Subsection F of this
22 section; or

23 (3) the racetrack paid gaming tax to the
24 state on its net take in an amount equal to eight million
25 dollars (\$8,000,000) or less in the prior fiscal year

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1 pursuant to Section 60-2E-47 NMSA 1978 and fails to maintain
2 a minimum of three live race days a week with no more than
3 four consecutive days elapsing between live race days and
4 with at least ten live races on each day during its licensed
5 race meets, except as provided in Subsection F of this
6 section.

7 C. Unless a larger number is allowed pursuant to
8 Subsection D of this section, a gaming operator licensee that
9 is a racetrack may have up to six hundred licensed gaming
10 machines.

11 D. By execution of an allocation agreement,
12 signed by both the allocating racetrack and the racetrack to
13 which the allocation is made, a gaming operator licensee that
14 is a racetrack may allocate any number of its authorized
15 gaming machines to another gaming operator licensee that is a
16 racetrack. To be valid, the allocation agreement must bear
17 the written approval of the board and the state racing
18 commission, and this approval shall make specific reference
19 to the meeting at which the action of approval was taken and
20 the number of votes cast both for and against the approval.
21 By allocating a number of its authorized machines to another
22 racetrack, the allocating racetrack automatically surrenders
23 all rights to operate the number of machines allocated. No
24 racetrack shall operate or be authorized to operate more than
25 seven hundred fifty gaming machines.

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1 E. Gaming machines on a racetrack gaming operator
2 licensee's premises may be played only on days when the
3 racetrack is either conducting live horse races or
4 simulcasting horse race meets. On days when gaming machines
5 are permitted to be operated, a racetrack gaming operator
6 licensee may offer gaming machines for operation for up to
7 eighteen hours per day; provided that the total number of
8 hours in which gaming machines are operated does not exceed
9 one hundred twelve hours in a one-week period beginning on
10 Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 8:00 a.m. on the following
11 Tuesday. A racetrack gaming operator licensee may offer
12 gaming machines for play at any time during a day; provided
13 that the total hours of operation in each day from just after
14 midnight of the previous day until midnight of the current
15 day does not exceed eighteen hours. A racetrack gaming
16 operator licensee shall determine, within the limitations
17 imposed by this subsection, the hours it will offer gaming
18 machines for operation each day and shall notify the board in
19 writing of those hours.

20 F. Maintaining fewer live race days or fewer live
21 races on each race day or allowing more than the permitted
22 number of days to elapse between live race days during a
23 licensed race meet does not constitute a failure to maintain
24 the minimum number of live race days or races or a failure to
25 restrict the number of lapsed days between live race days as

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1 required by Paragraphs (2) and (3) of Subsection B of this
2 section if the licensee submits to the board written approval
3 by the state racing commission for the licensee to vary the
4 minimum number of live race days or races or increase the
5 number of days that may lapse between live race days, and the
6 variance is due to:

7 (1) the inability of a racetrack gaming
8 operator licensee to fill races as published in the
9 licensee's condition book as long as the same type of
10 canceled race is run within the following two race weeks as
11 the race season permits;

12 (2) severe weather or other act, event or
13 occurrence resulting from natural forces;

14 (3) a strike or work stoppage by jockeys or
15 other persons necessary to conduct a race or meet;

16 (4) a power outage, electrical failure or
17 failure or unavailability of any equipment or supplies
18 necessary to conduct a race or meet;

19 (5) hazardous conditions or other threats to
20 the public health or safety; or

21 (6) any other act, event or occurrence that
22 the board finds is not within the control of the licensee
23 even with the exercise of reasonable diligence or care.

24 G. Alcoholic beverages shall not be sold, served,
25 delivered or consumed in the area restricted pursuant to

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Subsection F of Section 60-2E-26 NMSA 1978."

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