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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/13/13
 LAST UPDATED 03/11/13 HB _____

SPONSOR Munoz

SHORT TITLE State Racing Commission Composition SB 441/a SRC

ANALYST Martinez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

State Racing Commission (SRC)

New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB)

No Response From

Board of Veterinary Medicine

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee amendment to Senate Bill 441 removes language that specifies that “one, and only one, member of the commission shall be a veterinarian.” The Amendment does the following:

“One, member of the commission shall be a veterinarian.” This would allow more than one veterinarian to be on the commission.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 441 amends the composition of the State Racing Commission (SRC) to now require that one of the five members of the commission shall be a veterinarian who is licensed to practice veterinary medicine pursuant to the Veterinary Practice Act and be familiar with racehorses and horse racing. The bill would also empower the SRC to select the one of its members as chair annually.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No Fiscal Impact

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

A nine-month “New York Times” investigation revealed five racetracks in New Mexico have among the worst safety records in the nation. The article noted the addition of casinos to many racetracks and larger prize purses might have motivated owners to race unsafe horses: horses with injuries masked by excessive drugs or lower-quality horses unfit for the rigors of the track. To begin remedy, a knowledgeable veterinarian could be an important asset to the SRC.

RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 23, Relating to horse racing provides for the chair of the Gaming Control Board to serve Ex Officio to the SRC.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The New Mexico Livestock Board Comments:

Failure to enact the bill will result is a lost opportunity to improve the overall well being of the horse racing industry in the state of New Mexico.

RM/svb:blm