



Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: House Bill 546 proposes amendments and new provisions to the Horse Racing Act, modifying appointment procedures, establishing an executive director and introducing a nominating committee.

The bill enacts a new section under the Act creating a new committee responsible for selecting qualified nominees for the State Racing Commission. The committee will consist of nine members with six members appointed by legislative leaders, two members appointed by the governor, and one member appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court. Initial appointments to the committee must be made prior to September 1, 2025.

Under HB 546, racing commission members shall be appointed by the governor from a list submitted by the nominating committee, with the consent of the senate. Members of the commission, and their relatives, must be free of financial interests in a licensee regulated by the commission.

HB 546 further requires the appointment of an executive director, requiring the director have at least five years of supervisory experience in a government gaming regulatory agency and no financial interests in horse racing businesses.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

It is unclear what duties or authority are encompassed in the role of the executive director in relation to the commission.

Horse racing is a major attraction in New Mexico and events draw out-of-state visitors who contribute to local economies.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The State Racing Commission is administratively attached to the New Mexico Tourism Department

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status Quo.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.