

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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SENATE BILL 9
Commerce Committee Substitute Adopted 2/22/05

Short Title: Economic Development Horse Race.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

January 31, 2005

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ALLOW CERTAIN BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO
ISSUE ORDINANCES PERMITTING LIMITED HORSE RACING FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 23 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes is amended
by adding a new section to read:

"§ 153A-451. Limited horse racing for economic development purposes.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board of county
commissioners may issue ordinances allowing and regulating the running of horse races
with pari-mutuel wagering within the county for the purposes of economic
development.

(b) The ordinances issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include
the following provisions:

(1) The board of directors of a nonprofit corporation that operates a
racetrack shall be responsible for the conduct and operation of the
horse races.

(2) The ordinances shall provide for the honesty and integrity of the horse
races by providing that the board of directors:

a. Shall issue rules for the operation of any horse races conducted
pursuant to this act, including rules governing any pari-mutuel
wagering.

b. Shall appoint stewards who shall enforce the racing rules issued
by the board of directors.

c. Shall investigate the backgrounds of any persons directly
involved with the running of the races, such as owners and
jockeys, and any persons involved with the pari-mutuel
wagering.

- 1 d. Shall provide the necessary equipment for the fair and honest
2 operation of all pari-mutuel wager pools.
- 3 e. Shall appoint a veterinarian to ensure that all horses are free
4 from any drugs that might affect the performance of those
5 horses or the outcomes of the races.
- 6 f. Shall be personally responsible for the handling and accounting
7 for all funds in the pari-mutuel wager pools.
- 8 (3) The number of races that may be run and that all of the races shall be
9 run on one day of the year.
- 10 (4) The board of directors shall retain twenty percent (20%) of the
11 amounts wagered in the pari-mutuel wager pools and that these
12 retained funds shall be used by the nonprofit corporation to:
- 13 a. First, to pay all expenses for the operation of the races.
- 14 b. Second, any balance shall be used to enhance economic
15 development in the county.
- 16 (c) This section applies to any county that meets the following requirements:
- 17 (1) The county has for the previous three years been one of the five
18 counties with the lowest wages according to the North Carolina
19 Department of Commerce's list of "County Wage Standards (Private)."
- 20 (2) The county has had horse racing for at least three years at the racetrack
21 that will be used for the races run pursuant to this section."

22 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and expires three
23 years from its effective date.