

SUBJECT: Establishing the Texas Derbies as an annual stakes horse race

COMMITTEE: Licensing and Administrative Procedures — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Hamilton, Quintanilla, Driver, Geren, Gutierrez, Harless, Kuempel, Menendez, Thompson
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Rob Kohler, Christian Life Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas
Against — None
On — Chuck Trout, Texas Racing Commission

DIGEST: CSHB 254 would amend the Texas Racing Act by requiring the Texas Racing Commission (TRC) to establish the Texas Derbies as four annual stakes races for three-year old thoroughbreds and quarter horses beginning on or after January 1, 2015.

Guidelines for establishing the Texas Derbies. The official state breed registries and the official horseman's organization would have to develop the race conditions, entrance qualifications, and preference system used to determine the race finalists for a Texas Derby open only to Texas-bred horses.

For a Texas Derby not limited to Texas-bred horses, each class 1 racetrack that was awarded a Texas Derby would develop those guidelines.

The guidelines would be subject to review and approval by the executive secretary of the TRC.

The TRC would be required to set the date of and the location for each Texas Derby. Each Texas Derby would have to be held annually at the class 1 racetrack determined by the TRC. The TRC would be required to determine the location of each Texas Derby in consultation with each

class 1 racetrack, the official state breed registries, and the official horsemen's organization.

These requirements would expire January 1, 2016.

Inspection and examination of the horses. For each Texas Derby, the TRC would be required to appoint a state veterinarian to conduct a prerace examination of each horse entered in the race to determine whether the horse was healthy and met the standards set by TRC rule for racing.

The examination could include any procedure that the state veterinarian considered necessary to make the determination and could be conducted at any time before the race.

Texas Derby escrow purse fund. The TRC would be required to establish a Texas Derby escrow purse fund. The TRC would not be allowed to contribute any money to the fund before January 1, 2015.

Effective date. CSHB 254 would take effect September 1, 2011.

NOTES:

According to the fiscal note, there would be an indeterminate revenue gain to the state from the provisions of the bill in fiscal years 2014-2016 resulting from additional horse races and entry fees.