

- SUBJECT:** Extending the period of time a race track may hold a temporary license
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Smith, Kuempel, Geren, Gooden, Guillen, Gutierrez, Price, S. Thompson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Miles
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 17 — 19-12 (Birdwell, Campbell, Deuell, Estes, Hancock, Hegar, Huffman, Nelson, Patrick, Paxton, Schwertner, Taylor)
- WITNESSES:** For — Mary Ruyle, Texas Thoroughbred Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Tommy Azopardi, Texans for Economic Development; Bryan Brown, Pinnacle Entertainment and KTAGS Downs Holding Co.; Nick James, Texas Greyhound Association; Corey Johnsen, Saddle Brook Jockey Club; Rob Werstler, Texas Quarter Horse Association)
- Against — Rob Kohler, Christian Life Commission - Texas Baptists
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chuck Trout, Texas Racing Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Vernon’s Texas Civil Statutes (VTCS), art. 179e, sec. 6.15 allows associations that have been granted a temporary license by the Texas Racing Commission to conduct racing at a location in the same county for either two years after the issuance of the temporary license or on the completion of a permanent location, whichever occurs first. After a temporary license expires, no entity that has been granted the temporary license may get an extension of a temporary or a new temporary license.
- DIGEST:** SB 1340 would increase the amount of time in which racing could be conducted on a temporary license from two to six years.
- The bill also would allow the Texas Racing Commission to grant an

extension of up to four years to conduct racing at a location in the same county for any associations currently holding unexpired temporary licenses.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2013.

**NOTES:**

The LBB estimates a positive impact to general revenue related funds of \$78,000 in fiscal 2014, \$234,000 in fiscal 2015, and \$312,000 for the three fiscal years thereafter. This revenue would be generated from the addition of four race tracks anticipated to come on line in the next two years. One percent of the revenue from wagering at these tracks would be deposited into general revenue, with an additional 1.18 percent deposited to the Texas Racing Account No. 597.