

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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SENATE BILL 9

Short Title: Economic Development Horse Race.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Weinstein; and Horton.

Referred to: Commerce.

January 31, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW CERTAIN BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO
3 ISSUE ORDINANCES PERMITTING LIMITED HORSE RACING FOR
4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

8 "**§ 153A-451. Limited horse racing for economic development purposes.**

9 (a) The board of county commissioners may issue ordinances allowing and
10 regulating the running of horse races with pari-mutuel wagering within the county for
11 the purposes of economic development.

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 d. Shall provide the necessary equipment for the fair and honest
29 operation of all pari-mutuel wager pools.

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

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