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H.B. No. 1881

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Equine Incentive Program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 12.044 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.044. EQUINE INCENTIVE PROGRAM. (a) The department shall create and administer an equine incentive program to provide an incentive for the owners of certain Texas-based horses to enter the horses as participants in horse events in this state. The program may apply only to the following breeds of horses:

(1) Appaloosa horses;

(2) paint horses; and

(3) quarter horses.

(b) On the filing of an annual report with the applicable breeders' association, the owner of a stallion that has bred more than five mares during the 12-month period preceding the report shall submit a duplicate of the report to the department for the sixth and any subsequent mare bred by the stallion. An owner required to submit a duplicate breeding report by this subsection shall pay the department an equine incentive program fee in an amount of not less than \$30 per mare bred, as determined by the department, in connection with each report submitted to the department.

(c) An owner required by Subsection (b) to submit a

1 duplicate breeding report and equine incentive program fee may
2 elect not to participate in the program by giving written notice to
3 the department not later than the 30th day before the owner's annual
4 breeding report is due to the applicable breeders' association.

5 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), the owner of a stallion
6 that has bred fewer than six mares may elect to participate in the
7 program by submitting a duplicate breeding report and paying the
8 equine incentive program fee required by Subsection (b) for each
9 mare bred by the stallion.

10 (e) The department by rule shall provide for the use of fees
11 collected under Subsection (b) to grant equine incentive awards to
12 the owners of eligible foals that participate in horse events in
13 this state. A foal is eligible for an incentive award under this
14 section only if an equine incentive program fee has been paid on
15 behalf of the foal's dam.

16 (f) The department by rule shall establish a point system by
17 which the owner of an eligible foal may receive an equine incentive
18 award based on the foal's participation in horse events held in this
19 state that are sanctioned by the applicable horse breeders'
20 association.

21 (g) The department may use not more than five percent of the
22 fees collected under Subsection (b) to administer the program.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.