

By: Hilderbran

H.B. No. 3839

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing the Texas Derby.

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

SECTION 1. The Texas Racing Act (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Article 9A to read as follows:

ARTICLE 9A. TEXAS DERBY

Sec. 9A.001. TEXAS DERBY. (a) The commission shall establish the Texas Derby as an annual grade 1 stakes race of Texas-bred thoroughbred and quarter horses in this state.

(b) The commission shall set the date of and the location for the Texas Derby. The Texas Derby must be held annually at one of the class 1 racetracks in this state on a rotating basis as determined by the commission.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2010, the commission shall establish the annual rotation for the location of the Texas Derby by conducting a blind drawing of the names of each class 1 racetrack in this state. This subsection expires January 1, 2011.

Sec. 9A.002. QUALIFYING RACES. (a) The commission shall establish two annual races of Texas-bred thoroughbred and quarter horses to qualify horses for entry into the Texas Derby.

(b) The commission shall establish for each qualifying race:

(1) the date on which each race will be conducted,

1 provided the date is not the same for each race; and

2 (2) the class 1 racetrack where each qualifying race
3 will be conducted, provided that each race is conducted at a
4 different racetrack in a county with a population of at least two
5 million or adjacent to a county with a population of at least two
6 million.

7 (c) A horse is not eligible to run in a qualifying race or
8 the Texas Derby unless the horse:

9 (1) is a Texas-bred thoroughbred or quarter horse; and

10 (2) is not more than three years of age.

11 (d) A horse that finishes first, second, or third in a race
12 under this section qualifies to run in the Texas Derby race
13 established under Section 9A.001 of this Act.

14 Sec. 9A.003. INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION OF HORSE. (a) For
15 each qualifying race conducted under Section 9A.002 of this Act and
16 for the Texas Derby, the commission shall appoint a veterinarian to
17 supervise the inspection and examination of each horse entered in
18 the race to determine whether the horse is qualified to participate
19 in the race.

20 (b) The commission, in consultation with veterinarians,
21 shall by rule establish a list of documentation that must be
22 presented to the veterinarian appointed under Subsection (a) of
23 this section for each race to demonstrate that the horse is
24 qualified to run in the race.

25 Sec. 9A.004. TEXAS DERBY PURSE FUND. (a) The commission
26 shall establish a Texas Derby purse fund.

27 (b) The commission shall annually contribute \$3 million to

1 the Texas Derby purse fund from money allocated and available to the
2 commission for any purpose, including money specifically dedicated
3 to purse funds.

4 (c) A horse racing association conducting a qualifying race
5 under Section 9A.002 of this Act or the Texas Derby shall:

6 (1) collect an entry fee from each owner of a horse
7 entered in the race; and

8 (2) remit to the commission a portion of the fees in
9 the amount determined by the commission to ensure that the purse for
10 the Texas Derby is at least \$5 million, including the amount
11 contributed by the commission.

12 (d) The commission shall adopt rules for accounting, audit,
13 and distribution of money from the Texas Derby purse fund to winners
14 of the race.

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