

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing the Texas Derbies.

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 DERBIES

Sec. 9A.001. TEXAS DERBIES. (a) The commission shall establish as Texas Derbies the following annual stakes races:

(1) one race open to three-year-old Thoroughbreds;

(2) one race open only to three-year-old Texas-bred Thoroughbreds;

(3) one race open to three-year-old quarter horses;

and

(4) one race open only to three-year-old Texas-bred quarter horses.

(b) For a Texas Derby open only to Texas-bred horses, the respective official state breed registries and the official horsemen's organization shall develop:

(1) the race conditions and entrance qualifications;

and

(2) the preference system used to determine the race finalists.

(c) Each class 1 racetrack that is awarded a Texas Derby

1 that is not limited to Texas-bred horses shall develop for the
2 derby:

3 (1) the race conditions and entrance qualifications;

4 and

5 (2) the preference system used to determine the race
6 finalists.

7 (d) The race conditions and qualifications and preference
8 systems developed for the Texas Derbies under Subsection (b) or (c)
9 of this section are subject to review and approval by the executive
10 secretary.

11 (e) The commission shall set the date of and the location
12 for each Texas Derby. Each Texas Derby must be held annually at the
13 class 1 racetrack determined by the commission. The commission
14 shall determine the location of each Texas Derby in consultation
15 with:

16 (1) each class 1 racetrack;

17 (2) the official state breed registries; and

18 (3) the official horsemen's organization.

19 (f) The commission may sell the right to name a Texas Derby.
20 The commission shall deposit the proceeds from the sale of the right
21 to name a Texas Derby into the Texas Derby escrow purse fund
22 established under Section 9A.003 of this article.

23 (g) The date of the initial Texas Derby may not be earlier
24 than January 1, 2015. This subsection expires January 1, 2016.

25 Sec. 9A.002. INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION OF HORSE. (a) For
26 each Texas Derby, the commission shall appoint a state veterinarian
27 to conduct a prerace examination of each horse entered in the race

1 to determine whether the horse is healthy and meets standards set by
2 commission rule for racing.

3 (b) The examination may include any procedure that the state
4 veterinarian considers necessary to make the determination
5 required by Subsection (a) of this section.

6 (c) The examination may be conducted at any time before the
7 race.

8 Sec. 9A.003. TEXAS DERBY ESCROW PURSE FUND. (a) The
9 commission shall establish a Texas Derby escrow purse fund.

10 (b) The commission shall by rule establish a schedule of
11 entrance fees for participants in each Texas Derby. A portion
12 determined by the commission of each entrance fee shall be
13 deposited in the Texas Derby escrow purse fund.

14 (c) Notwithstanding Section 3.09 of this Act or any other
15 law, the commission by rule shall determine a portion of the fees,
16 charges, and other revenue collected under this Act to be deposited
17 to the credit of the Texas Derby escrow purse fund as reasonably
18 necessary to maintain competitive purses for each Texas Derby.

19 (d) The commission by rule may assess under this Act
20 additional charges and fees, including gate fees, to supplement the
21 funds otherwise deposited in the Texas Derby escrow purse fund
22 under this section.

23 (e) Other than as provided by this section, no other state
24 revenue may be deposited to the credit of the Texas Derby escrow
25 purse fund.

26 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
27 of this Act, the Texas Racing Commission shall adopt the rules

H.B. No. 254

1 necessary to implement Section 9A.003, Texas Racing Act (Article
2 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.