

By: Hilderbran

H.B. No. 254

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 254:

By: Kuempel

C.S.H.B. No. 254

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 date of the initial Texas Derby may not be earlier
20 than January 1, 2015. This subsection expires January 1, 2016.

21 Sec. 9A.002. INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION OF HORSE. (a) For
22 each Texas Derby, the commission shall appoint a state veterinarian
23 to conduct a prerace examination of each horse entered in the race
24 to determine whether the horse is healthy and meets standards set by
25 commission rule for racing.

26 (b) The examination may include any procedure that the state
27 veterinarian considers necessary to make the determination

1 required by Subsection (a) of this section.

2 (c) The examination may be conducted at any time before the
3 race.

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

6 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding Section 9A.003, Texas Racing Act
7 (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by this
8 Act, the Texas Racing Commission may not contribute any money to the
9 Texas Derby escrow purse fund before January 1, 2015.

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