COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	____	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	____	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	____	(Y/N)
OTHER		

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Commerce Committee
Representative Anderson offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 550.01215, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

550.01215 License application; periods of operation; license fees; bond.—

(1) Each permitholder shall annually, during the period between January 15 and February 4, file in writing with the commission its application for an operating license for a pari-mutuel facility for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering during the next state fiscal year, including intertrack and simulcast race wagering. Each application for live performances must specify the number, dates, and starting times of all live

performances that the permitholder intends to conduct. It must also specify which performances will be conducted as charity or scholarship performances.

(b)1. A greyhound permitholder may not conduct live racing. A jai alai permitholder, thoroughbred permitholder, harness horse racing permitholder, or quarter horse racing permitholder may elect not to conduct live racing or games. ~~A thoroughbred permitholder must conduct live racing.~~ A greyhound permitholder, jai alai permitholder, thoroughbred permitholder, harness horse racing permitholder, or quarter horse racing permitholder that does not conduct live racing or games retains its permit; is a pari-mutuel facility as defined in s. 550.002(23); if such permitholder has been issued a slot machine license, the facility where such permit is located remains an eligible facility as defined in s. 551.102(4), continues to be eligible for a slot machine license pursuant to s. 551.104(3), and is exempt from ~~ss. 551.104(4)(c) and (10) and~~ s. 551.114(2); is eligible, but not required, to be a guest track and, if the permitholder is a harness horse racing permitholder, to be a host track for purposes of intertrack wagering and simulcasting pursuant to ss. 550.3551, 550.615, 550.625, and 550.6305; and remains eligible for a cardroom license.

2. A permitholder or licensee may not conduct live greyhound racing or dogracing in connection with any wager for money or any other thing of value in the state. The commission

may deny, suspend, or revoke any permit or license under this chapter if a permitholder or licensee conducts live greyhound racing or dogracing in violation of this subparagraph. In addition to, or in lieu of, denial, suspension, or revocation of such permit or license, the commission may impose a civil penalty of up to $5,000 against the permitholder or licensee for a violation of this subparagraph. All penalties imposed and collected must be deposited with the Chief Financial Officer to the credit of the General Revenue Fund.

Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 550.09515, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

550.09515 Thoroughbred horse taxes; abandoned interest in a permit for nonpayment of taxes.—

(3) ~~(a)~~ The permit of a thoroughbred horse permitholder who is conducting live thoroughbred horse performances and who does not pay tax on handle for live thoroughbred horse performances for a full schedule of live races during any 2 consecutive state fiscal years shall be void and shall not be reissued ~~escheat to and become the property of the state~~ unless such failure to operate and pay tax on handle was the direct result of fire, strike, war, or other disaster or event beyond the ability of the permitholder to control. Financial hardship to the permitholder shall not, in and of itself, constitute just cause for failure to operate and pay tax on handle.

~~(b) In order to maximize the tax revenues to the state,~~

~~the commission shall reissue an escheated thoroughbred horse permit to a qualified applicant pursuant to the provisions of this chapter as for the issuance of an initial permit. However, the provisions of this chapter relating to referendum requirements for a pari-mutuel permit shall not apply to the reissuance of an escheated thoroughbred horse permit. As specified in the application and upon approval by the commission of an application for the permit, the new permitholder shall be authorized to operate a thoroughbred horse facility anywhere in the same county in which the escheated permit was authorized to be operated, notwithstanding the provisions of s. 550.054(2) relating to mileage limitations.~~

Section 3. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 550.5251, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

550.5251 Florida thoroughbred racing; certain permits; operating days.—

(1) <u>If a thoroughbred permitholder elects to conduct live racing, the</u> ~~each~~ thoroughbred permitholder shall annually, during the period commencing January 15 of each year and ending February 4 of the following year, file in writing with the commission its application to conduct one or more thoroughbred racing meetings during the thoroughbred racing season commencing on the following July 1. Each application shall specify the number and dates of all performances that the permitholder intends to conduct during that thoroughbred racing season. On or

before April 15 of each year, the commission shall issue a license authorizing each permitholder to conduct performances on the dates specified in its application. Up to March 28 of each year, each permitholder may request and shall be granted changes in its application to conduct performances; but thereafter, as a condition precedent to the validity of its license and its right to retain its permit, each permitholder must operate the full number of days authorized on each of the dates set forth in its license.

(2)(a) <u>If a thoroughbred permitholder elects to conduct live racing, the</u> ~~each~~ licensed thoroughbred permitholder in this state must run an average of one race per racing day in which horses bred in this state and duly registered with the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association have preference as entries over non-Florida-bred horses, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the permitholder, the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, and the association representing a majority of the thoroughbred racehorse owners and trainers at that location. All licensed thoroughbred racetracks shall write the conditions for such races in which Florida-bred horses are preferred so as to assure that all Florida-bred horses available for racing at such tracks are given full opportunity to run in the class of races for which they are qualified. The opportunity of running must be afforded to each class of horses in the proportion that the number of horses in this class bears to the total number of

Florida-bred horses available. A track is not required to write conditions for a race to accommodate a class of horses for which a race would otherwise not be run at the track during its meet.

Section 4. Paragraphs (d) through (j) of subsection (4) of section 551.104, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (c) through (i), respectively, and paragraph (c) of subsection (4) and subsection (10) of that section are amended to read:

551.104 License to conduct slot machine gaming.—

(4) As a condition of licensure and to maintain continued authority for the conduct of slot machine gaming, the slot machine licensee shall:

(c) ~~If a thoroughbred permitholder, conduct no fewer than a full schedule of live racing or games as defined in s. 550.002(10). A permitholder's responsibility to conduct live races or games shall be reduced by the number of races or games that could not be conducted due to the direct result of fire, strike, war, hurricane, pandemic, or other disaster or event beyond the control of the permitholder.~~ Beginning July 1, 2025, each thoroughbred permitholder in compliance with this chapter is not required to pay an annual license fee to the commission as a condition of renewal.

~~(10)(a)1. No slot machine license or renewal thereof shall be issued to an applicant holding a permit under chapter 550 to conduct pari-mutuel wagering meets of thoroughbred racing unless~~

~~the applicant has on file with the commission a binding written agreement between the applicant and the Florida Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Inc., governing the payment of purses on live thoroughbred races conducted at the licensee's pari-mutuel facility. In addition, no slot machine license or renewal thereof shall be issued to such an applicant unless the applicant has on file with the commission a binding written agreement between the applicant and the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, Inc., governing the payment of breeders', stallion, and special racing awards on live thoroughbred races conducted at the licensee's pari-mutuel facility. The agreement governing purses and the agreement governing awards may direct the payment of such purses and awards from revenues generated by any wagering or gaming the applicant is authorized to conduct under Florida law. All purses and awards shall be subject to the terms of chapter 550. All sums for breeders', stallion, and special racing awards shall be remitted monthly to the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, Inc., for the payment of awards subject to the administrative fee authorized in s. 550.2625(3).~~

~~2. No slot machine license or renewal thereof shall be issued to an applicant holding a permit under chapter 550 to conduct pari-mutuel wagering meets of quarter horse racing unless the applicant has on file with the commission a binding written agreement between the applicant and the Florida Quarter~~

~~Horse Racing Association or the association representing a majority of the horse owners and trainers at the applicant's eligible facility, governing the payment of purses on live quarter horse races conducted at the licensee's pari-mutuel facility. The agreement governing purses may direct the payment of such purses from revenues generated by any wagering or gaming the applicant is authorized to conduct under Florida law. All purses shall be subject to the terms of chapter 550.~~

~~(b) The commission shall suspend a slot machine license if one or more of the agreements required under paragraph (a) are terminated or otherwise cease to operate or if the commission determines that the licensee is materially failing to comply with the terms of such an agreement. Any such suspension shall take place in accordance with chapter 120.~~

~~(c)1. If an agreement required under paragraph (a) cannot be reached prior to the initial issuance of the slot machine license, either party may request arbitration or, in the case of a renewal, if an agreement required under paragraph (a) is not in place 120 days prior to the scheduled expiration date of the slot machine license, the applicant shall immediately ask the American Arbitration Association to furnish a list of 11 arbitrators, each of whom shall have at least 5 years of commercial arbitration experience and no financial interest in or prior relationship with any of the parties or their affiliated or related entities or principals. Each required~~

~~party to the agreement shall select a single arbitrator from the list provided by the American Arbitration Association within 10 days of receipt, and the individuals so selected shall choose one additional arbitrator from the list within the next 10 days.~~

~~2. If an agreement required under paragraph (a) is not in place 60 days after the request under subparagraph 1. in the case of an initial slot machine license or, in the case of a renewal, 60 days prior to the scheduled expiration date of the slot machine license, the matter shall be immediately submitted to mandatory binding arbitration to resolve the disagreement between the parties. The three arbitrators selected pursuant to subparagraph 1. shall constitute the panel that shall arbitrate the dispute between the parties pursuant to the American Arbitration Association Commercial Arbitration Rules and chapter 682.~~

~~3. At the conclusion of the proceedings, which shall be no later than 90 days after the request under subparagraph 1. in the case of an initial slot machine license or, in the case of a renewal, 30 days prior to the scheduled expiration date of the slot machine license, the arbitration panel shall present to the parties a proposed agreement that the majority of the panel believes equitably balances the rights, interests, obligations, and reasonable expectations of the parties. The parties shall immediately enter into such agreement, which shall satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a) and permit issuance of the pending~~

~~annual slot machine license or renewal. The agreement produced by the arbitration panel under this subparagraph shall be effective until the last day of the license or renewal period or until the parties enter into a different agreement. Each party shall pay its respective costs of arbitration and shall pay one-half of the costs of the arbitration panel, unless the parties otherwise agree. If the agreement produced by the arbitration panel under this subparagraph remains in place 120 days prior to the scheduled issuance of the next annual license renewal, then the arbitration process established in this paragraph will begin again.~~

~~4. In the event that neither of the agreements required under subparagraph (a)1. or the agreement required under subparagraph (a)2. are in place by the deadlines established in this paragraph, arbitration regarding each agreement will proceed independently, with separate lists of arbitrators, arbitration panels, arbitration proceedings, and resulting agreements.~~

~~5. With respect to the agreements required under paragraph (a) governing the payment of purses, the arbitration and resulting agreement called for under this paragraph shall be limited to the payment of purses from slot machine revenues only.~~

~~(d) If any provision of this subsection or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity~~

~~does not affect other provisions or applications of this subsection or chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this subsection are severable.~~

Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) and paragraph (d) of subsection (13) of section 849.086, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

849.086 Cardrooms authorized.—

(5) LICENSE REQUIRED; APPLICATION; FEES.—No person may operate a cardroom in this state unless such person holds a valid cardroom license issued pursuant to this section.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pari-mutuel permitholder, other than a permitholder issued a permit pursuant to s. 550.3345 or a purchaser, transferee, or assignee holding a valid permit for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering approved pursuant to s. 550.054(15)(a), may not be issued a license for the operation of a cardroom if the permitholder did not hold an operating license for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering for fiscal year 2020-2021. In order for an initial cardroom license to be issued to a thoroughbred permitholder issued a permit pursuant to s. 550.3345, the applicant must have requested, as part of its pari-mutuel annual license application, to conduct at least a full schedule of live racing. ~~In order for a cardroom license to be renewed by a thoroughbred permitholder, the applicant must have requested, as part of its~~

~~pari-mutuel annual license application, to conduct at least 90 percent of the total number of live performances conducted by such permitholder during either the state fiscal year in which its initial cardroom license was issued or the state fiscal year immediately prior thereto if the permitholder ran at least a full schedule of live racing or games in the prior year.~~

(13) TAXES AND OTHER PAYMENTS.—

(d)1. Each jai alai permitholder that conducts live performances and operates a cardroom facility shall use at least 4 percent of such permitholder's cardroom monthly gross receipts to supplement jai alai prize money during the permitholder's next ensuing pari-mutuel meet.

~~2. Each thoroughbred permitholder or harness horse racing permitholder that conducts live performances and operates a cardroom facility shall use at least 50 percent of such permitholder's cardroom monthly net proceeds as follows: 47 percent to supplement purses and 3 percent to supplement breeders' awards during the permitholder's next ensuing racing meet.~~

2.~~3.~~ No cardroom license or renewal thereof shall be issued to an applicant holding a permit under chapter 550 to conduct pari-mutuel wagering meets of quarter horse racing and conducting live performances unless the applicant has on file with the commission a binding written agreement between the applicant and the Florida Quarter Horse Racing Association or

the association representing a majority of the horse owners and trainers at the applicant's eligible facility, governing the payment of purses on live quarter horse races conducted at the licensee's pari-mutuel facility. The agreement governing purses may direct the payment of such purses from revenues generated by any wagering or gaming the applicant is authorized to conduct under Florida law. All purses shall be subject to the terms of chapter 550.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:
An act relating to pari-mutuel wagering; amending s. 550.01215, F.S.; authorizing thoroughbred permitholders to elect not to conduct live racing or games; specifying that such permitholders retain certain permits, eligibility, exemptions, and licenses; providing that certain permitholders are eligible to be a guest track; amending s. 550.09515, F.S.; prohibiting reissuance of horse permits to certain permitholders who do not pay tax on handle for live races for a specified period; removing provisions requiring reissuance of escheated horse permits; amending s. 550.5251, F.S.; conforming provisions to

changes made by the act; amending s. 551.104, F.S.; revising specified requirements for thoroughbred permitholders who have certain slot machine licenses; amending s. 849.086, F.S.; revising requirements for certain permitholders who have cardroom licenses; providing an effective date.