

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

SENATE BILL 754

By: Rader

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to horse race meetings; amending 3A O.S. 2011, Section 264, which relates to race meetings; allowing decreased number of races per day upon certain approval; providing curtailment of races upon certain uncontrollable acts without penalty; naming natural disasters; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 3A O.S. 2011, Section 264, is amended to read as follows:

Section 264. A. The organization licensee that is located in a county with a population of greater than six hundred thousand (600,000) according to the most recent federal decennial census shall, for each year it conducts authorized gaming:

1. Conduct annually a race meeting restricted to Thoroughbred horses that provides no fewer than six hundred (600) races for Thoroughbred horses; and

2. Conduct annually a race meeting restricted to Quarter Horse, Paint and Appaloosa horses that provides no fewer than five hundred

1 (500) races for Quarter Horse, Paint and Appaloosa horses within a  
2 period of twelve (12) consecutive weeks.

3 B. Each organization licensee that is located in a county with  
4 a population of fewer than four hundred thousand (400,000) according  
5 to the most recent federal decennial census shall be required, for  
6 each year it conducts authorized gaming, to conduct annually no less  
7 than two hundred seventy (270) races for Thoroughbred horses, no  
8 fewer than two hundred seventy (270) races for Quarter Horses, and  
9 no fewer than sixty (60) races for Paint and Appaloosa horses.

10 C. An organization licensed pursuant to Section 208.2 of ~~Title~~  
11 ~~3A of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title shall in order to be eligible  
12 to receive money pursuant to the provision of subsection K in  
13 Section ~~4~~ 263 of this ~~act~~ title, conduct annually no less than four  
14 hundred (400) total races, which shall include conducting no fewer  
15 than an average of four (4) races per day for Thoroughbred horses or  
16 such lesser number of races approved by the Oklahoma Horse Racing  
17 Commission pursuant to subsection D of this section.

18 D. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection H of Section ~~4~~  
19 263 of this ~~act~~ title, the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission shall  
20 approve, upon joint application of the organization licensee and the  
21 official horsemen's representative organization that represents the  
22 horsemen for a given breed of horses participating in a given race  
23 meeting, a reduction or increase in the number of races to be  
24 conducted as prescribed in this section. Any agreed-upon change to

1 the number of races shall include specifying the number of races to  
2 be conducted each race day and the calendar days that the races will  
3 be conducted. For purposes of any agreement entered into pursuant  
4 to this section, a race day shall be not less than seven (7) races  
5 nor more than twelve (12) races unless all of the races on a  
6 particular day are time trial races. The organization licensees and  
7 the elected horsemen's representative organization shall use their  
8 best efforts to establish race meets with the number of races that  
9 is reasonable in light of the available purse money, the racing  
10 calendar of all organization licensees operating pursuant to this  
11 ~~act~~ section, and the number of races run at similar facilities in  
12 surrounding markets.

13 E. Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary,  
14 the requirements set forth in this section shall become effective  
15 with the first race meeting that commences at each organization  
16 licensee following the initial six (6) months that the organization  
17 licensee commences authorized gaming as authorized by ~~this act~~ the  
18 State-Tribal Gaming Act.

19 F. Horse racing may be curtailed without penalty as a result of  
20 acts of God, war or terrorism which render an organization  
21 licensee's facility unusable for horse racing for a significant  
22 portion of such organization licensee's race meeting. Acts of God,  
23 war or terrorism include natural disasters and other events which  
24 are beyond an organization licensee's reasonable control including,

1 but not limited to, hurricanes, tornados, damaging winds,  
2 earthquakes, hail, floods, fire, pandemics, war, riots, civil  
3 commotion and bombing or other terrorists attacks.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2021.

5 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
6 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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