

House File 2615 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2615
BY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 658)

(COMPANION TO SF 2117 BY PIKE)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to thoroughbred and quarter horse racing seasons.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 99D.7, subsection 3, Code 2026, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 3. To adopt standards regarding the duration of thoroughbred
4 and quarter horse racing seasons, so that a thoroughbred racing
5 season shall not be less than sixty-seven days, and so that a
6 quarter horse racing season shall not be less than twenty-six
7 days. ~~The thoroughbred and quarter horse racing seasons shall be~~
8 ~~run independently unless mutually agreed upon by the associations~~
9 ~~representing the thoroughbred and quarter horse owners and the~~
10 ~~licensee of the horse racetrack located in Polk county.~~

11 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **99D.7A Thoroughbred and quarter horse**
12 **racing seasons.**

13 1. Thoroughbred and quarter horse racing seasons shall be
14 conducted as separate stand-alone meets that do not overlap,
15 other than as provided in this section. A race for one breed
16 shall not be scheduled or conducted on the same calendar day
17 as a race for the other breed, and the racing season for one
18 breed shall not commence until the racing season for the other
19 breed has concluded, unless mutually agreed upon in writing by
20 the associations representing the thoroughbred and quarter horse
21 owners and the licensee of the horse racetrack located in Polk
22 county.

23 2. An arrangement in which races for both thoroughbreds and
24 quarter horses are scheduled during overlapping or concurrent
25 periods shall be deemed a mixed meet and shall only occur
26 pursuant to a mutual written agreement under subsection 1.

27 Sec. 3. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The general assembly finds
28 that a recent decision or interpretation of the state racing and
29 gaming commission suggesting that thoroughbred and quarter horse
30 races may be held on the same calendar day without the agreement
31 of the associations representing the thoroughbred and quarter
32 horse owners and the licensee of the horse racetrack located
33 in Polk county, does not comply with the requirement in section
34 99D.7, subsection 3, that such races run independently.

35 EXPLANATION

1 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
2 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3 This bill relates to thoroughbred and quarter horse racing
4 seasons. The bill strikes a provision requiring, as part of
5 the state racing and gaming commission's (commission) standards,
6 that thoroughbred and quarter horse racing seasons be run
7 independently unless mutually agreed upon by the associations
8 representing the thoroughbred and quarter horse owners and the
9 licensee of the horse racetrack located in Polk county.

10 Instead, the bill requires that thoroughbred and quarter horse
11 racing seasons be conducted as separate stand-alone meets that
12 do not overlap, that races for the breeds not take place on the
13 same day, and that the racing season for one breed not commence
14 until the season for the other breed has concluded. However, the
15 bill allows mixed meets featuring both breeds if mutually agreed
16 upon in writing by the associations representing the thoroughbred
17 and quarter horse owners and the licensee of the horse racetrack
18 located in Polk county.

19 The bill makes legislative findings related to a recent
20 decision or interpretation of the commission.