

SB 78 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) to adopt rules to issue licenses to conduct off-race course simulcast mutuel wagering. Grants nonrace meet simulcast licensee same permissions afforded to meet licensee. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

“Pari-mutuel” wagers are bets made on the outcome of a race. The bets go into a pool managed by an operator, who has no stake in the outcome of the race. The operator deducts a set percentage from the pool and distributes the remainder to the winning patrons. The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) regulates all aspects of the pari-mutuel industry in Oregon. Current statute allows race meet license holders to host client wager accounts, conduct handicapping contests, conduct off-race course mutuel wagering, and host instant racing machines and video lottery game terminals.

Senate Bill 78 requires the ORC to adopt standards for a new license, the nonrace meet simulcast license. Nonrace meet simulcast licensees are authorized to conduct off-race course simulcast wagering as well as the permissions afforded to meet race licensees.