

SB 856 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Labor and Business

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure provides an exception for persons acting in the course of carrying out their official auditing duties to the prohibition that no member, employee, or appointee of the Oregon Racing Commission (Commission), or the immediate family member of such a person, may bet or wager on any race meet held under the license and supervision of the commission if such a person acts in an official capacity in connection with that race meet. Makes conforming amendments.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Auditing function of the Oregon Racing Commission (ORC)
- Regulation of online wagering companies
- Purpose of permitting certain employees of ORC to place bets or wagers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. The amendment permits officers or employees of the Oregon Racing Commission to place a bet or wager on a race meet held under the supervision of the commission in the course of carrying out official auditing duties. Makes conforming amendments.

Fiscal impact: No fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Racing Commission (Commission) consists of five members and is responsible for licensing, regulating, and supervising all race meets held in Oregon. The Commission is also required to have the various places where race meets are held to be visited and inspected at least one each fiscal year. A "race meet" is defined as any exhibition of animal racing where the mutual system is used in conjunction with any race. According to a 2023 report by the Oregon Audits Division of the Oregon Secretary of State, the Commission has broad authority over animal racing and wagering in Oregon, which includes live, simulcast, and historical races.

Senate Bill 856 provides an exception for persons acting in the course of carrying out their official auditing duties to the prohibition that no member, employee, or appointee of the Oregon Racing Commission (Commission), or the immediate family member of such a person, may bet or wager on any race meet held under the license and supervision of the commission if such a person acts in an official capacity in connection with that race meet.