

Submitter: D Torres  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3020  
Chair & Committee Members,

I oppose HB 3020.

Although I fully support the humane treatment of animals and understand the concerns raised by animal welfare advocates, I believe this bill is both unnecessary and potentially harmful to a longstanding and highly regulated industry that has provided entertainment, economic activity, and employment for decades.

Greyhound racing has already seen a sharp decline across the country due to public sentiment and evolving entertainment preferences. Where it still exists, it is under strict regulatory oversight to ensure the welfare of the animals. In many jurisdictions, dogs receive high-quality veterinary care, regular exercise, and live in clean, well-maintained kennels. If abuses occur, they should be dealt with through better enforcement, not prohibition.

Eliminating the ability to wager on dog races could have real economic consequences, especially in communities where such activity still plays a role in supporting jobs, tourism, and local business revenue. Kennel owners, trainers, veterinarians, and even local vendors who benefit from racetrack events could be affected. A blanket prohibition cuts off this ecosystem with little consideration for the people it impacts.

Adults should have the freedom to engage in legal wagering on dog races if they so choose. With proper safeguards in place, there is no compelling reason to ban this specific form of gaming while allowing countless others. A more appropriate approach would be to modernize oversight and transparency measures rather than imposing an outright ban.

Greyhound racing, while controversial, is also a part of cultural history in certain regions. Erasing it entirely from the law books not only diminishes this legacy but also oversimplifies a nuanced issue. This bill doesn't just prohibit wagering—it symbolically erases a part of our history, regardless of its complexity.

While I respect the intent behind this legislation, I strongly urge lawmakers to consider a more balanced and informed approach. Let us invest in reforms and enforcement mechanisms that protect animals without dismantling entire industries and stripping individuals of their choices.

