

April 23, 2025

Position on Bills at 2025 Session of Oregon Legislature:

HB 854: Support

HB 855: Support

HB 856: Support

HB 857: Support



The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

COIN supports this package of bills to regulate the horse racing industry in Oregon.

HB 854 authorizes the Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) to impose civil penalties for holding a race meet without a license or accepting or facilitating wagers on animal racing without a license. The maximum penalty is \$25,000. ORC does not currently have the authority to fine illegal wagering in the state. Several companies are operating unlicensed online wagering companies in Oregon and are not paying source market fees to the industry (5% of the total wager and a condition of the interstate horse racing act).

HB 855 increases the civil penalty that ORC may impose to \$5,000 per offense and requires the commission to adopt rules establishing the civil penalties that may be imposed. The current limit is \$500. ORC regulates all aspects of horse racing in Oregon, including the licensing of participants (jockeys, trainers, and owners) in live race meets, subscriber-based multi-jurisdictional simulcasting, and interactive wagering hubs registered and doing business in Oregon.

SB 856 allows officers or employees of the ORC to place wagers "in the course of carrying out official auditing duties." Currently, such wagers are prohibited. The wagers would be made to:

- Verify that all the information on a wager ticket is correct.
- Verify that the ticket can be cancelled before a race.
- Verify that the pools adjust appropriately.
- Verify that someone who has self reported as a problem gambler can not actually make a wager.
- Confirm that a new organization's system works as advertised.

HB 857 provides confidentiality for persons who report potential violations of racing laws or rules to the ORC and makes the identity information exempt from disclosure. ORC wants to set up a tip line without revealing identities of tipsters.

Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)

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