

SB 1524 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Horse Racing Account (Account) to support horse racing events conducted by licensed operators and horse racing events on county fairgrounds in Crook County, Josephine County, Tillamook County, and Union County. The measure funds the Account with three-tenths of one percent of the net proceeds from the Oregon State Lottery. It requires the Oregon Racing Commission (Commission) to administer the Account and use funds for activities that support horse racing events including the operation of horse racing events, maintenance of tracks and infrastructure, purchasing safety equipment and funding veterinarians, and supporting purse money and incentives. The measure becomes operative on July 1, 2027.

Fiscal impact: *May have fiscal impact, but statement not yet issued*

Revenue impact: *Revenue statement issued*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Diversity of culturally events in Oregon
- Recent changes in funding for horse racing events
- Reasons in the changes in the prevalence of horse racing
- Economic impact of horse racing events in communities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Horse racing has been an activity at fairs in Oregon since the 1800s, with different variations taking place over the years. Oregon continues to host live horse racing with a summer racing circuit that has meets at several county fair venues and tracks such as Grants Pass Downs.

The Commission regulates all aspects of the pari-mutuel industry in Oregon including racing, and on- and off-track wagering. The Commission also regulates multi-jurisdictional account wagering hubs licensed in Oregon. By statute, the fees on wagering go to the state general fund and to support racing industry activities, such as the horse racing meet in Grants Pass and the summer race meets in communities throughout the state.