

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 5389

As Passed House:

April 4, 2007

Title: An act relating to importing a simulcast race of regional or national interest on horse race days.

Brief Description: Approving the importing of one simulcast race of regional or national interest on horse race days.

Sponsors: By Senator Hewitt.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Commerce & Labor: 3/27/07 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 4/4/07, 95-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows nonprofit horse racing associations to be approved to import one simulcast race of regional or national interest on each live race day.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Conway, Chair; Wood, Vice Chair; Condotta, Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Green, Moeller and Williams.

Staff: Joan Elgee (786-7106).

Background:

The Washington Horse Racing Commission (Commission) licenses horse racing associations and is otherwise responsible for regulating horse racing in Washington. A class 1 racing association is one that owns and operates its own race facility and offers at least 40 race days a year. The Commission also licenses nonprofit races that are of 10 days or less and which have an average daily handle of \$120,000 or less.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Simulcasting is the process of offering wagering on a horse race that is broadcast live on television from a race track. Imported simulcasts originate at racetracks outside the state. Class 1 racetracks are allowed to show simulcast signals from, and conduct wagering on, imported simulcast signals. Legislation passed in 2004 deleted the authority of other racetracks to import one simulcast race of regional or national interest on each live race day.

Summary of Bill:

A nonprofit racing association may be approved by the Commission to import one simulcast race of regional or national interest on each live race day.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill restores language inadvertently removed in 2004. It would allow the Kennewick track to simulcast the Kentucky Derby and the Waitsburg track to simulcast the Preakness. The Horse Racing Commission unanimously approved this bill. Nurturing the small tracks is very important.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Carol Smith-Merkulov and Robert Leichner, Washington Horse Racing Commission; and Jim Halstrom, Northwest Racing, and Emerald Downs.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.