REVENUE: Revenue statement issued
FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 2 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Holvey, Kennemer, Matthews, Thompson, Weidner, Witt, Doherty
Nays:	Fagan, Thatcher
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jan Nordlund, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/13, 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows certain race meet operator that holds a Class A license to conduct mutuel wagering at licensee's race course on horse races previously held if certain provisions are met.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Differences between mutuel and traditional wagering
- Role advancing technology plays in industry
- Possible impacts of bill passage/non-passage to industry

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the original measure.

BACKGROUND: Mutuel wagering at race courses in Oregon, as well as off-race course mutuel wagering, are legal under OR Law 1987, chapter 913. "Mutuel" is defined as "a system whereby wagers with respect to the outcome of a race are placed with a wagering pool in which the participants are wagering with each other and not against the operator.

In 2008, MEC Oregon Racing Inc., dba Portland Meadows, requested the Oregon Racing Commission allow it to add a form of wagering on historical horse races known as "Thoroughbred Mania" to its previously-approved race meet license. The Commission denied Portland Meadows' request for several reasons, one of which was that Thoroughbred Mania is not considered to be a form of mutuel wagering permitted by law. The Commission also stated that it understood its authority to approve mutuel wagering on horse races as being limited to live racing (and not historical). In 2009, the Oregon Court of Appeals upheld the Commission's decision to deny Portland Meadow's request on the basis that the Commission's authority to approve such wagering is limited to live races.

House Bill 2613-A allows historical races to be considered a form of mutuel wagering and expands the Commission's jurisdiction over such wagering.