



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Racing Commission

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Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair  
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Chair

Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) budget for your review on February 8, 2017. I am following up on a few issues that arose at the hearing that warrant a little more attention.

1. License Application Turn Around Time

The ORC formerly had a separate licensing department. That department was abolished in 2009 and licensing duties were assumed by the investigators. The commercial race meet declined from 60 days in 2012-13 to the current 37 day schedule. In 2014 by attrition that department was reduced from 3 full time staffers to 2 which contributed to a somewhat longer turnaround time. In September 2016 the agency cross trained a racing worker to assist with licensing during high volume periods. This should allow us to make up for the reduction in staff with only a minor impact on processing licenses.

2. Catastrophic Injury Data

Fiscal Year 2014-15: Total Starters, 3,650 - Catastrophic Injuries, 2 - Rate/Thousand 0.55  
Fiscal Year 2015-16: Total Starters, 3,820 - Catastrophic Injuries, 6 - Rate/Thousand 1.57

3. New Legislation Impacting ORC

Three House Bills have been identified which potentially impact the racing industry. HB 2358 raises the maximum charitable gaming prize from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and theoretically could siphon gaming dollars from the race track. HB 2549 authorizes the Oregon State Lottery to issue registrations to "Fantasy contest operators". This may be an opportunity for a race track operator to increase their wagering menu through these offerings. HB 2844 excludes from gross mutuel wagering amounts awarded as a free wager or free play eliminating the 1% paid to the ORC on such wagers. Negligible fiscal impact is anticipated from this legislation.

Please let me know if further information required.

Regards,

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