

SB 77 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Enables the Oregon Racing Commission to authorize Multi-Jurisdictional Simulcasting and Interactive Wagering Totalizer Hubs to conduct simulcast broadcasting and mutuel wagering on previously-held races. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

“Pari-mutuel” wagers are bets made on the outcome of a race. The bets go into a pool managed by an operator, who has no stake in the outcome of the race. The operator deducts a set percentage from the pool and distributes the remainder to the winning patrons. The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) regulates all aspects of the pari-mutuel industry in Oregon. Instant Racing, allows patrons to wager on over 200,000 previously-held races using an electronic system that withholds all identifying information until after the wager has been placed. Instant Racing was approved by the ORC in 2003. The Oregon Court of Appeals found in a 2009 case that Oregon’s mutuel wagering statute was limited to live racing events. HB 2613 (2013) authorized specified operators to conduct pari-mutuel wagering on previously-held races.

The ORC currently licenses ten Multi-Jurisdictional Simulcasting and Interactive Wagering Totalizer Hubs, which are businesses that allow subscribers to make pari-mutuel wagers on simulcast races. One quarter of funds the ORC receives from multi-jurisdictional hubs are dedicated to the State General Fund. Current statute does not allow these businesses to broadcast and accept wagers on previously-held races. Senate Bill 77 allows multi-jurisdictional hubs to broadcast and accept wagers on previously-held races.