



Oregon

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SB 77 Wagering on Past Live Races

The bill would authorize the ORC to develop rules to allow Advance Deposit Wagering Companies (ADW) licensed by the ORC to offer wagering on past live races. Similar products known as “Historic Racing” or “Instant Racing” are offered in various states, including Oregon, at brick and mortar facilities. An important distinction between the contemplated wagering and instant racing is that the wagering on past run races offered by the ADW’s would run as a traditional race card. Post times would be announced, the races telecast, and all patrons would be wagering into the same pools. The wagers would be processed by the tote companies in the ordinary manner. Unlike instant racing there are no terminals or self-starting of the races. In order to obviate any confusion ORS 462.725 should be amended to incorporate specific authority to allow the “Multi-Jurisdictional Simulcasting ...Hubs” to broadcast and conduct simulcast mutuel wagering on animal races, including previously held races. The actual video tape of the race could be shown or a virtual or simulated representation of the previously held race accurately depicting the running of the race could be utilized. Races offered would at the time they were run have to have been approved by the ORC or an equivalent regulatory body of another state. (See ORS 462.155).

This measure requires the agency to promulgate rules to regulate all aspects of the transmission and pari-mutuel wagering on previously run races. Once launched the regulation of the product would involve ongoing audit and oversight responsibility to ensure the integrity of the wager. Agency staff are already involved in the audit, oversight, inspection, and certification process for similar offerings at Portland Meadows. This agency expertise would be supplemented by additional authentication and certification services provided by outside vendors working directly with the agency and licensee. The fiscal impact is undetermined at this time as it will in large part depend on the popularity of the offering and the ability of the licensee to distribute it to a large market. In the short term the fiscal impact on the agency is expected to be neutral or slightly positive. Any increase in mutuel wagering would result in additional revenue for the agency and the state. Any increase in cost to the agency in regulating the product would either be covered by increased revenue or borne by the licensee as a condition of operation. At this time no additional staffing appears necessary.

