



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Racing Commission

PO Box 366

Gresham, OR 97030

<https://racing.oregon.gov>

October 16, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

October 16, 2025

Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means

Co-Chairs: Senator Kate Lieber and Representative Tawna Sanchez

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Kate Lieber and Representative Tawna Sanchez,

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) respectfully submits this correspondence to provide context regarding proposed budget reductions and the impact such reductions would have on our statutory mission and statewide operations.

The Oregon Racing Commission is charged under **ORS Chapter 462** with regulating and overseeing all aspects of pari-mutuel wagering and horse racing in Oregon. Our mission is to ensure the integrity, security, and fairness of the sport while protecting the welfare of the horses and participants involved. The Commission also plays a key role in supporting Oregon's rural economies and the long-standing agricultural and cultural traditions connected to horse racing and county fairs.

In developing reduction options, the Commission carefully evaluated all agency functions with the goal of preserving our **core regulatory and safety services**—including equine drug testing, stewarding, and race oversight—while maintaining our commitment to transparency and fairness. We prioritized minimizing impacts on public safety, animal welfare, and the viability of local race meets. Given our small size and limited administrative overhead, this process offered very little flexibility without significant consequences to our core services.

The proposed **\$384,659 reduction** would directly affect our ability to conduct **equine safety testing, training oversight, and essential support for local race meets**. These funds are critical to the sustainability of **the Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association, the Crook County Race Meet, the Tillamook County Fair, and the Eastern Oregon Livestock Races**. The reduction will directly impact purses used to attract better horses and audiences, and ultimately impact safety at all fair meets and the commercial meet. In addition, the Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association is losing a significant amount which is earmarked to open the track for training before racing. This track supports all the others in Oregon as the only state training track. It is imperative that horses can train before they begin racing. Not providing these funds could drastically reduce fitness in horses as they begin the racing season.

Excellence in Racing · Safety First · Integrity Always

To meet the current restraints due to revenue shortfalls, we have already made considerable cuts including no in-person meetings for the commission for the remainder of the biennium, significant cuts in in-state travel, no out of state travel except for audits (which are required by Statute and are reimbursed by the licensee), no commission participation in any race meets, and drastic reductions in all paid training. Although we will still have testing for our equine athletes, it will be reduced considerably. We have also cut our steward position by 25%.

The cuts proposed will not impact jockey insurance, tote equipment, regulatory staff needed to keep us operational, auditing functions of the commission, and commission business. Additional areas that are also not impacted includes equine examinations, basic testing for drug violations, and all core operations.

The Oregon Racing Commission respectfully requests the Committee's consideration of these critical impacts when evaluating reduction options. We remain committed to prudent fiscal management while upholding our responsibility to ensure safe, fair, and economically beneficial racing activities across Oregon.



Connie Winn
Executive Director
Oregon Racing Commission
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Agency Name (Acronym																ORC	
2025-27 Biennium																	
Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion		Authorization	Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status		
		Biennium	Effective Date														
ORC					NA - no new or expanded programs							\$ -					
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Instructions

Column (5) - Authorization should identify the source of the new program or program expansion, which could include enabling legislation, approved policy option package, or administrative establishment.

Column (6) - Program description should include a summary of the program and the expansion (if applicable), including any partner state agencies.

Column (16) - Current status of program implementation should be summarized, including any future budget requests anticipated upon full program implementation.