

STATE OF NEW YORK

5765--B

Cal. No. 175

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 24, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. WALSH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Racing and Wagering -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- advanced to a third reading, passed by Assembly and delivered to the Senate, recalled from the Senate, vote reconsidered, bill amended, ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law, in relation to health insurance for New York trainers at franchised corporation race tracks

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law is amended by adding a new section 221-b to read as follows:

§ 221-b. Health insurance for trainers. 1. A franchised corporation shall, as a condition of racing, establish a program to administer the purchase of health insurance for eligible trainers. Such program shall be funded through the deposit of up to three percent of the gross purse enhancement amount from video lottery gaming at a thoroughbred track pursuant to paragraph two of subdivision b and paragraph one of subdivision f of section sixteen hundred twelve of the tax law. The franchised corporation shall establish a segregated account for the receipt of such monies and such monies shall remain separate from any other funds. The franchised corporation licensed pursuant to this article shall pay into such account any amount due within ten days of the receipt of revenue pursuant to section sixteen hundred twelve of the tax law. Any portion of such funding to the account unused during a calendar year, less an amount sufficient to cover anticipated premium liabilities over the next sixty days, shall be returned on a pro rata basis in accordance with the amounts originally contributed and shall be used for the purpose of enhancing purses at such tracks. Provided, however, if the franchised

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 corporation licensed pursuant to this article provides an alternative
2 source of funding for such program, an amount equal to this alternative
3 funding, but not in excess of the amount originally contributed during
4 the year from the gross purse enhancement amount from video lottery
5 gaming attributable to the franchised corporation, shall be returned to
6 the franchised corporation and used for the purpose of enhancing purses
7 at such track. Provided, further, any such alternative source of funding
8 shall be approved by the gaming commission.

9 2. The franchised corporation shall enter into a memorandum of under-
10 standing with the horsemen's organization representing at least fifty-
11 one percent of the owners and trainers utilizing the facilities of such
12 franchised corporation for a plan of operation of the program, provided
13 that such memorandum of understanding shall be approved by the gaming
14 commission upon a determination that such memorandum of understanding
15 meets the statutory requirements of this section and is in the best
16 interest of racing and shall include, but not be limited to, the follow-
17 ing conditions:

18 a. health insurance policies shall be purchased on an American health
19 benefit exchange established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 18031(b) by the
20 insured;

21 b. health insurance policies eligible to be purchased under the
22 program shall be any policy that is silver level of coverage or lower as
23 defined by 42 U.S.C. § 18022(d). Provided, however, the insured may
24 elect to purchase a gold level or platinum level of coverage as defined
25 by 42 U.S.C. § 18022(d) if the insured pays the difference in premiums
26 between such policy and the premium for the silver level policy offered
27 by the same insurer. Such payments shall be paid into the account estab-
28 lished in subdivision one of this section and shall be governed by the
29 terms of the memorandum of understanding required by this section;

30 c. notwithstanding the conditions set forth in paragraphs a and b of
31 this subdivision, a memorandum of understanding with the horsemen's
32 organization representing at least fifty-one percent of the owners and
33 trainers utilizing the facilities of such franchised corporation may be
34 approved by the commission upon a determination that such memorandum of
35 understanding is in the best interest of racing that creates a trainer
36 health trust to be administered by the franchised corporation for the
37 purpose of obtaining trainers health benefits from a health insurance
38 provider that covers trainers and their dependents with a health insur-
39 ance policy that is not purchased on an American health benefit exchange
40 established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 18031(b) but does provide silver
41 level coverage or lower as defined by 42 U.S.C. § 18022(d);

42 d. the payment of premiums pursuant to this section shall be made on
43 behalf of eligible trainers pursuant to paragraph e of this subdivision
44 by the franchised corporation from monies in the account established in
45 subdivision one of this section directly to the health plan selected
46 pursuant to paragraph b or c of this subdivision;

47 e. to be eligible to receive health insurance through this program, an
48 individual shall have started at least forty-three races conducted by
49 the franchised corporation during the prior calendar year and at least
50 sixty percent of the trainer's total amount of starts occurred at the
51 franchised corporation during the prior calendar year; and

52 f. the gaming commission shall have the following powers:

53 (i) to rule on eligibility in the event of a denial of coverage pursu-
54 ant to paragraph e of this subdivision. In the event of a denial of
55 coverage, such individual trainer that was denied eligibility may appeal
56 to the gaming commission;

- 1 (ii) to make a determination if an individual would have qualified
2 pursuant to paragraph e of this subdivision; and
3 (iii) to audit the books and records of the program.

4 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately, provided, however, that
5 payment of premiums pursuant to this act shall begin no later than 60
6 days following the approval by the gaming commission of a memorandum of
7 understanding establishing a plan of operation as required by section
8 221-b of the racing, pari-mutuel wagering and breeding law.