

CHAPTER 240

PARI-MUTUEL HORSE RACING

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240.03 COMMISSION POWERS AND DUTIES.

The commission has the following powers and duties:

- (1) to regulate horse racing in Minnesota to ensure that it is conducted in the public interest;
- (2) to issue licenses as provided in this chapter;
- (3) to enforce all laws and rules governing horse racing;
- (4) to collect and distribute all taxes provided for in this chapter;
- (5) to conduct necessary investigations and inquiries and compel the submission of information, documents, and records it deems necessary to carry out its duties;
- (6) to supervise the conduct of pari-mutuel betting on horse racing;
- (7) to employ and supervise personnel under this chapter;
- (8) to determine the number of racing days to be held in the state and at each licensed racetrack;
- (9) to take all necessary steps to ensure the integrity of racing in Minnesota; and
- (10) to impose fees on the racing and card playing industries sufficient to recover the operating costs of the commission with the approval of the legislature according to section 16A.1283. Notwithstanding section 16A.1283, when the legislature is not in session, the commissioner of finance may grant interim approval for any new fees or adjustments to existing fees that are not statutorily specified, until such time as the legislature reconvenes and acts upon the new fees or adjustments. As part of its biennial budget request, the commission must propose changes to its fees that will be sufficient to recover the operating costs of the commission.

History: *1Sp2003 c 1 art 2 s 69*

240.06 RACETRACK LICENSES.

Subdivision 1. **Application.** The commission may issue one or more class A licenses, but not more than one to any one person. An application for a class A license must be on a form the commission prescribes and must be accompanied by detailed plans and specifications of the track, buildings, fences, and other improvements. The application must contain:

- (a) the name and address of the applicant and, if it is a corporation, the names of all officers, directors, and shareholders of the corporation and any of its holding corporations;
- (b) if required by the commission, the names of any person or persons holding directly, indirectly, or beneficially an interest of any kind in the applicant or any of its holding corporations, whether the interest is financial, administrative, policy making, or supervisory;
- (c) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the applicant;
- (d) an affidavit executed by the applicant setting forth that no officer, director, or other person with a present or future direct or indirect financial or management interest in the racetrack, to the best of the applicant's knowledge:
 - (1) is in default in the payment of an obligation or debt to the state under this chapter;

(2) has ever been convicted of a felony in a state or federal court or has a state or federal felony charge pending;

(3) is or has been connected with or engaged in any illegal business;

(4) has ever been found guilty of fraud or misrepresentation in connection with racing or breeding;

(5) has ever been found guilty of a violation of a law or rule relating to horse racing, pari-mutuel betting or any other form of gambling which is a serious violation as defined by the commission's rules; or

(6) has ever knowingly violated a rule or order of the commission or a law of Minnesota relating to racing;

(e) an irrevocable consent statement, to be signed by the applicant, which states that suits and actions relating to the subject matter of the application or acts or omissions arising from it may be commenced against the applicant in any court of competent jurisdiction in this state by the service on the secretary of state of any summons, process, or pleadings authorized by the laws of this state. If any summons, process, or pleadings is served upon the secretary of state, it must be by duplicate copies. One copy must be retained in the Office of the Secretary of State and the other copy must be forwarded immediately by certified mail to the address of the applicant, as shown by the records of the commission; and

(f) an affirmative action plan establishing goals and timetables consistent with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, chapter 363A, and in conformity with the goals established by the commission by rule.

[For text of subds 2 to 8, see M.S.2002]

240.07 RACING LICENSES.

Subdivision 1. Application. The commission may issue one or more class B licenses for the sponsorship and management of horse racing at licensed racetracks. An application for a class B license must be on a form the commission prescribes, and must be accompanied by a bond in the principal amount of \$500,000 payable to the state of Minnesota conditioned on the licensee's payment of all fees, taxes, and other money due and payable under Laws 1983, chapter 214, including horse owner's purses and payouts on winning pari-mutuel tickets.

The application must contain:

(a) the name and address of the applicant and, if it is a corporation or association, the names of all officers, directors, and shareholders, including those of any of its holding companies;

(b) if required by the commission, the names of any person or persons holding, directly, indirectly, or beneficially, an interest of any kind in the applicant or any of its holding companies, whether the interest is financial, administrative, policy making, or supervisory;

(c) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the applicant;

(d) an affidavit of the type described in section 240.06, subdivision 1, clause (d);

(e) an irrevocable consent statement, to be signed by the applicant, which states that suits and actions relating to the subject matter of the application or acts or omissions arising from it may be commenced against the applicant in any court of competent jurisdiction in this state by the service on the secretary of state of any summons, process, or pleadings authorized by the laws of this state. If any summons, process, or pleadings is served upon the secretary of state, it must be by duplicate copies. One copy must be retained in the Office of the Secretary of State and the other copy must be forwarded immediately by certified mail to the address of the applicant, as shown by the records of the commission; and

(f) an affirmative action plan establishing goals and timetables consistent with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, chapter 363A, and in conformity with the goals established by the commission by rule.

[For text of subds 2 to 7, see M.S.2002]

240.10 LICENSE FEES.

The fee for a class A license is \$253,000 per year and must be remitted on July 1. The fee for a class B license is \$500 for each assigned racing day and \$100 for each day on which simulcasting is authorized and must be remitted on July 1. Included herein are all days assigned to be conducted after January 1, 2003. The fee for a class D license is \$50 for each assigned racing day on which racing is actually conducted. Fees imposed on class D licenses must be paid to the commission at a time and in a manner as provided by rule of the commission.

The commission shall by rule establish an annual license fee for each occupation it licenses under section 240.08 but no annual fee for a class C license may exceed \$100.

History: 1Sp2003 c 1 art 2 s 70

240.15 PAYMENTS TO STATE.

[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.2002]

Subd. 6. **Disposition of proceeds; account.** The commission shall distribute all money received under this section, and all money received from license fees and fines it collects, according to this subdivision. All money designated for deposit in the Minnesota breeders fund must be paid into that fund for distribution under section 240.18 except that all money generated by full racing card simulcasts must be distributed as provided in section 240.18, subdivisions 2, paragraph (d), clauses (1), (2), and (3); and 3. Revenue from an admissions tax imposed under subdivision 1 must be paid to the local unit of government at whose request it was imposed, at times and in a manner the commission determines. Taxes received under this section and fines collected under section 240.22 must be paid to the commissioner of finance for deposit in the general fund. All revenues from licenses and other fees imposed by the commission must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to a racing and card playing regulation account in the special revenue fund. Receipts in this account are available for the operations of the commission up to the amount authorized in biennial appropriations from the legislature.

History: 2003 c 112 art 2 s 50; 1Sp2003 c 1 art 2 s 71

240.155 REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNTS AND PROCEDURES.

Subdivision 1. **Reimbursement account credit.** Money received by the commission as reimbursement for the costs of services provided by veterinarians, stewards, and medical testing of horses must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to a racing reimbursement account, except as provided under subdivision 2. Receipts are appropriated to the commission to pay the costs of providing the services.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.2002]

History: 1Sp2003 c 1 art 2 s 72

240.19 CONTRACTS.

The commission shall by rule require that all contracts entered into by a class A, class B, or class D licensee for the provision of goods or services, including concessions contracts, be subject to commission approval. The rules must require that the contract include an affirmative action plan establishing goals and timetables consistent with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, chapter 363A. The rules may also establish goals to provide economic opportunity for disadvantaged and emerging small businesses, racial minorities, women, and disabled individuals. The commission may require a contract holder to submit to it documents and records the commission deems necessary to evaluate the contract.

240.22 FINES.

The commission shall by rule establish a graduated schedule of civil fines for violations of laws related to horse racing or of the commission's rules. The schedule must include minimum and maximum fines for each violation and be based on and reflect the culpability, frequency and severity of the violator's actions. The commission may impose a fine from this schedule on a licensee for a violation of those rules or laws relating to horse racing. The fine is in addition to any criminal penalty imposed for the same violation. Fines imposed by the commission must be paid to the commission and forwarded to the commissioner of finance for deposit in the general fund. A fine in excess of \$2,000 is a contested case under the Administrative Procedure Act.

History: 2003 c 112 art 2 s 50