

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 53-06.2-01, 53-06.2-03, 53-06.2-04,
2 53-06.2-04.1, 53-06.2-05, 53-06.2-07, 53-06.2-08, 53-06.2-09, 53-06.2-10, 53-06.2-10.1,
3 53-06.2-11, 53-06.2-12, 53-06.2-13, 53-06.2-14, 53-06.2-15, and 53-06.2-16 of the North
4 Dakota Century Code, relating to regulation of parimutuel horse racing; and to repeal section
5 53-06.2-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to elimination of the racing commission.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-01 is amended:

8 **53-06.2-01. Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

- 9 1. "Breeders' fund" means a fund, administered by the commission, established to
10 financially reward breeders or owners of North Dakota-bred horses to be paid in
11 accordance with rules as approved by the commission.
- 12 2. "Certificate system" means the system of betting described in section 53-06.2-10.
- 13 3. "Charitable organization" means a nonprofit organization operated for the relief of
14 poverty, distress, or other conditions of public concern in this state and has been
15 so engaged in this state for at least two years.
- 16 4. "Civic and service club" means a branch, lodge, or chapter of a nonprofit national
17 or state organization that is authorized by its written constitution, charter, articles of
18 incorporation, or bylaws to engage in a civic or service purpose in this state and
19 has so existed in this state for at least two years. The term includes a similar local
20 nonprofit organization, not affiliated with a state or national organization, which is
21 so recognized by a resolution adopted by the governing body of the local
22 jurisdiction in which the organization conducts its principal activities, and which has
23 existed in this state for at least two years.
- 24 5. "Commission" means the North Dakota racing commission.

- 1 6. "Director" means the director of the commission.
- 2 7. "Fraternal organization" means a nonprofit organization in this state, which is a
3 branch, lodge, or chapter of a national or state organization and exists for the
4 common business, brotherhood, or other interests of its members, and has so
5 existed in this state for two years. The term does not include a college or high
6 school fraternity.
- 7 8. "Local jurisdiction" means, with respect to a site inside the city limits of a city, that
8 city, and with respect to a site not inside the city limits of a city, the county in which
9 the site is located.
- 10 9. "Other public-spirited organization" means a nonprofit organization recognized by
11 the governing body of the appropriate local jurisdiction by resolution as
12 public-spirited and eligible under this chapter.
- 13 10. "Purse fund" means a fund, administered by the commission, established to
14 supplement and improve purses offered at racetracks within the state.
- 15 11. "Racing" means live or simulcast horse racing under the certificate system or
16 simulcast dog racing under the certificate system.
- 17 12. "Racing promotion fund" means a fund administered by the commission
18 established to assist in improving and upgrading racetracks in the state, promoting
19 horse racing in the state, and developing new racetracks in the state as necessary
20 and approved by the commission.
- 21 13. "Religious organization" means a nonprofit organization, church, body of
22 communicants, or group gathered in common membership for mutual support and
23 edification in piety, worship, and religious observances, and which has been so
24 gathered or united in this state for at least two years.
- 25 14. "Veterans' organization" means a congressionally chartered organization in this
26 state, or a branch, lodge, or chapter of a nonprofit national or state organization in
27 this state, the membership of which consists of individuals who were members of
28 the armed services or forces of the United States, and which has so been in
29 existence in this state for at least two years.

30 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-03 is amended:

1 **53-06.2-03. Director of racing - Appointment - Qualifications - Salary - Duties -**
2 **Other personnel.**

- 3 1. The commission shall appoint a director of racing. The commission shall establish
4 the director's qualifications and salary.
- 5 2. The director shall devote such time to the duties of the office as the commission
6 may prescribe. The director is the executive officer of the commission and shall
7 enforce the rules and orders of the commission. The director shall perform other
8 duties the commission prescribes.
- 9 3. The director may employ other persons as authorized by the commission.

10 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-04 is amended:

11 **53-06.2-04. Duties of commission.** The commission shall:

- 12 1. Provide for racing under the certificate system.
- 13 2. Set racing dates.
- 14 3. Adopt rules for effectively preventing the use of any substance, compound items,
15 or combinations of any medicine, narcotic, stimulant, depressant, or anesthetic
16 which could alter the normal performance of a racehorse, unless specifically
17 authorized by the commission.
- 18 4. Supervise and check the making of parimutuel pools, parimutuel machines, and
19 equipment at all races held under the certificate system.
- 20 5. Adopt rules governing, restricting, or regulating bids on licensees' concessions and
21 leases on equipment.
- 22 6. Consider all proposed extensions, additions, or improvements to the buildings,
23 stables, or tracks on property owned or leased by a licensee.
- 24 7. Exclude from racetracks or simulcast pari-mutuel wagering facilities any person
25 who violates any rule of the commission or any law.
- 26 8. Determine the cost of inspections performed under subsection 3 of section
27 53-06.2-05 and require the licensee to pay that cost.
- 28 9. Report biennially to the legislative council regarding the operation of the
29 commission.

- 1 10. Provide notice to the North Dakota horsemen's council of meetings held by the
2 commission and permit the North Dakota horsemen's council to participate in the
3 meetings through placement of items on the agenda.
- 4 11. Complete, distribute, and post on the commission's web site the minutes of each
5 commission meeting within thirty days of that meeting or before the next meeting of
6 the commission, whichever occurs first.

7 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-04.1 is amended:

8 **53-06.2-04.1. North Dakota-bred registry - Contract requirements.** The commission
9 shall provide for registration of a North Dakota-bred horse for qualification for breeders' fund
10 awards or purse supplements. The commission shall contract with a private person to maintain
11 the registry. Through a competitive bidding process, the commission shall award the contract
12 to the lowest responsible bidder. The cost of the contract must be paid from the breeders' fund.

13 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-05 is amended:

14 **53-06.2-05. Powers of commission.** The commission may:

- 15 1. Compel the production of all documents showing the receipts and disbursements
16 of any licensee and determine the manner in which such financial records are to be
17 kept.
- 18 2. Investigate the operations of any licensee and enter any vehicle or place of
19 business, residence, storage, or racing of any licensee on the grounds of a
20 licensed association to determine whether there has been compliance with the
21 provisions of this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter, and to discover
22 and seize any evidence of noncompliance.
- 23 3. Request appropriate state officials to perform inspections necessary for the health
24 and safety of spectators, employees, participants, and horses that are lawfully on a
25 racetrack.
- 26 4. License all participants in the racing and simulcast pari-mutuel wagering industry
27 and require and obtain information the commission deems necessary from license
28 applicants. Licensure of service providers, totalizator companies, site operators,
29 and organizations applying to conduct or conducting pari-mutuel wagering must be
30 approved by the attorney general. The attorney general may not grant a license
31 denied by the commission. The commission may obtain a statewide and

1 nationwide criminal history record check from the bureau of criminal investigation
2 for the purpose of determining suitability or fitness for a license. The nationwide
3 check must be conducted in the manner provided in section 12-60-24. All costs
4 associated with obtaining a background check are the responsibility of the
5 applicant for a license.

6 5. Receive moneys from the North Dakota horse racing foundation for deposit in the
7 purse fund, breeders' fund, or racing promotion fund in accordance with
8 subsection 6 of section 53-06.2-11.

9 6. Adopt additional rules for the administration, implementation, and regulation of
10 activities conducted pursuant to this chapter. The commission shall deposit any
11 fees collected under authority of this subsection in the racing commission operating
12 fund. Subject to legislative appropriation, the commission may spend the fees for
13 operating costs of the commission.

14 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-07 is amended:

15 **53-06.2-07. Issuance of licenses - Applications.**

16 1. On compliance by an applicant with this chapter and the approval of the attorney
17 general, the commission may issue a license to conduct races. The attorney
18 general may not grant a license denied by the commission.

19 2. An application for a license to conduct a racing meet must be signed under oath
20 and filed with the commission. The application must contain at least the following:

21 a. The name and post-office address of the applicant.

22 b. The location of the racetrack and whether it is owned or leased. If the
23 racetrack is leased, a copy of the lease must be included.

24 c. A statement of the applicant's previous history and association sufficient to
25 establish that the applicant is an eligible organization.

26 d. The time, place, and number of days the racing meet is proposed to be
27 conducted.

28 e. The type of racing to be conducted.

29 f. Other information the commission requires.

30 3. At least thirty days before the commission issues or renews a license to conduct
31 races, the applicant shall deliver a complete copy of the application to the local

1 jurisdiction governing body. The application to the commission must include a
2 certificate verified by a representative of the applicant, indicating delivery of the
3 application copy to the governing body. If the governing body of the local
4 jurisdiction adopts a resolution disapproving the application for license or renewal
5 and so informs the director within thirty days of receiving a copy of the application,
6 the license to conduct races may not be issued or renewed.

7 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-08 is amended:

8 **53-06.2-08. License authorization and fees.**

- 9 1. Each license issued under the certificate system must describe the place, track, or
10 racecourse at which the licensee may hold races. Every license must specify the
11 number of days the licensed races may continue, the hours during which racing
12 may be conducted, and the number of races that may be held each day. Races
13 authorized under this chapter may be held during the hours approved by the
14 commission and within the hours permitted by state law.
- 15 2. The commission may charge a license fee for racing commensurate with the size
16 and attendance of the race meet.
- 17 3. Each applicant for a license under this chapter shall give bond payable to this state
18 with good security as approved by the commission. The bond must be in the
19 amount the commission determines will adequately protect the amount normally
20 due and owing to this state in a regular payment period or, in the case of new or
21 altered conditions, based on the projected revenues.
- 22 4. The commission may grant licenses to horse owners, jockeys, riders, agents,
23 trainers, grooms, stable foremen, exercise workers, veterinarians, valets,
24 concessionaires, service providers, employees of racing associations, and such
25 other persons as determined by the commission. Licensure of service providers,
26 totalizator companies, site operators, and organizations applying to conduct or
27 conducting pari-mutuel wagering must be approved by the attorney general. The
28 attorney general may not grant a license denied by the commission. License fees
29 are as established by the commission.
- 30 5. The commission may establish the period of time for which licenses issued under
31 this chapter are valid.

1 6. The commission shall deposit all fees collected under this section in the racing
2 commission operating fund. Subject to legislative appropriation, the commission
3 may spend the fees for operating costs of the commission.

4 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-09 is amended:

5 **53-06.2-09. Allotment of racing days.** If an applicant is eligible to receive a license
6 under this chapter, the commission shall fix the racing days that are allotted to that applicant
7 and issue a license for the holding of racing meets.

8 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-10 is amended:

9 **53-06.2-10. Certificate system - Rules.** The certificate system allows a licensee to
10 receive money from any person present at a live horse race, simulcast horse race, or simulcast
11 dog race who desires to bet on any entry in that race. A person betting on an entry to win
12 acquires an interest in the total money bet on all entries in the race, in proportion to the amount
13 of money bet by that person, under rules adopted by the commission. The licensee shall
14 receive the bets and for each bet shall issue a certificate to the bettor on which is at least
15 shown the number of the race, the amount bet, and the number or name of the entry selected
16 by the bettor. The commission may adopt rules for place, show, quinella, combination, or other
17 types of betting usually connected with racing.

18 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-10.1 is amended:

19 **53-06.2-10.1. Simulcast wagering.** In addition to racing under the certificate system,
20 as authorized by this chapter, and conducted upon the premises of a racetrack, simulcast
21 pari-mutuel wagering may be conducted in accordance with this chapter or rules adopted by the
22 commission under this chapter in accordance with chapter 28-32. Any organization qualified
23 under section 53-06.2-06 to conduct racing may make written application to the commission for
24 the conduct of simulcast pari-mutuel wagering on races held at licensed racetracks inside the
25 state or racetracks outside the state, or both. Licensure of service providers, totalizator
26 companies, site operators, or organizations applying to conduct or conducting simulcast or
27 account wagering must be approved by the attorney general. The attorney general may not
28 grant a license denied by the commission. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
29 the commission may authorize any licensee to participate in interstate or international combined
30 wagering pools with one or more other racing jurisdictions. Anytime that a licensee participates
31 in an interstate or international combined pool, the licensee, as prescribed by the commission,

1 may adopt the take-out of the host jurisdiction or facility. The commission may permit a
2 licensee to use one or more of its races or simulcast programs for an interstate or international
3 combined wagering pool at locations outside its jurisdiction and may allow pari-mutuel pools in
4 other states to be combined with pari-mutuel pools in its jurisdiction for the purpose of
5 establishing an interstate or international combined wagering pool. The participation by a
6 licensee in a combined interstate or international wagering pool does not cause that licensee to
7 be considered to be doing business in any jurisdiction other than the jurisdiction in which the
8 licensee is physically located. Pari-mutuel taxes or commissions may not be imposed on any
9 amounts wagered in an interstate or international combined wagering pool other than amounts
10 wagered within this jurisdiction. The certificate system also permits pari-mutuel wagering to be
11 conducted through account wagering. As used in this section, "account wagering" means a
12 form of pari-mutuel wagering in which an individual deposits money in an account and uses the
13 account balance to pay for pari-mutuel wagers. An account wager made on an account
14 established in this state may only be made through the licensed simulcast service provider
15 approved by the attorney general and authorized by the commission to operate the simulcast
16 pari-mutuel wagering system under the certificate system. The attorney general may not grant
17 a license denied by the commission. An account wager may be made in person, by direct
18 telephone communication, or through other electronic communication in accordance with rules
19 adopted by the commission. Breakage for interstate or international combined wagering pools
20 must be calculated in accordance with the statutes or rules of the host jurisdiction and must be
21 distributed among the participating jurisdictions in a manner agreed to among the jurisdictions.

22 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-11 is amended:

23 **53-06.2-11. Bet payoff formulas - Uses by licensee of funds in excess of**
24 **expenses - Payment to general fund.**

- 25 1. For wagering on live horse racing and simulcast wagering:
- 26 a. In win, place, and show pari-mutuel pools, the licensee may deduct no more
27 than twenty percent of the amount wagered. Of the amount wagered, the
28 licensee shall pay:
- 29 (1) Two percent to the state treasurer to be deposited in the general fund.
30 (2) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the
31 breeders' fund.

- 1 (3) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the purse
2 fund.
- 3 (4) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the racing
4 promotion fund.
- 5 b. In daily double, quinella, exacta, trifecta, or other combination pari-mutuel
6 pools, the licensee may deduct no more than twenty-five percent of the
7 amount wagered. Of the amount wagered, the licensee shall pay:
- 8 (1) Two and one-half percent to the state treasurer to be deposited in the
9 general fund.
- 10 (2) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the
11 breeders' fund.
- 12 (3) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the purse
13 fund.
- 14 (4) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the racing
15 promotion fund.
- 16 2. For account wagering:
- 17 a. In win, place, and show pari-mutuel pools, the licensee may deduct no more
18 than twenty percent of the amount wagered.
- 19 (1) Before eleven million dollars is wagered in all pari-mutuel wagering in
20 each biennium, of the amount wagered by account wagering in win,
21 place, and show pari-mutuel pools, the licensee shall pay:
- 22 (a) Two percent to the state treasurer to be deposited in the general
23 fund.
- 24 (b) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the
25 breeders' fund.
- 26 (c) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the
27 purse fund.
- 28 (d) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the
29 racing promotion fund.

- 1 (2) After eleven million dollars is wagered in all pari-mutuel wagering in
2 each biennium, of the amount wagered by account wagering in win,
3 place, and show pari-mutuel pools, the licensee shall pay:
- 4 (a) One-sixteenth of one percent to the state treasurer to be
5 deposited in the general fund.
- 6 (b) One-sixteenth of one percent to the commission to be deposited
7 in the breeders' fund.
- 8 (c) One-sixteenth of one percent to the commission to be deposited
9 in the purse fund.
- 10 (d) One-sixteenth of one percent to the commission to be deposited
11 in the racing promotion fund.
- 12 b. In daily double, quinella, exacta, trifecta, or other combination pari-mutuel
13 pools, the licensee may deduct no more than twenty-five percent of the
14 amount wagered.
- 15 (1) Before eleven million dollars is wagered in each biennium, of the
16 amount wagered by account wagering in daily double, quinella, exacta,
17 trifecta, or other combination pari-mutuel pools, the licensee shall pay:
- 18 (a) Two and one-half percent to the state treasurer to be deposited in
19 the general fund.
- 20 (b) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the
21 breeders' fund.
- 22 (c) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the
23 purse fund.
- 24 (d) One-half of one percent to the commission to be deposited in the
25 racing promotion fund.
- 26 (2) After eleven million dollars is wagered in all pari-mutuel wagering in
27 each biennium, of the amount wagered by account wagering in daily
28 double, quinella, exacta, trifecta, or other combination pari-mutuel
29 pools, the licensee shall pay:
- 30 (a) One-sixteenth of one percent to the state treasurer to be
31 deposited in the general fund.

- 1 (b) One-sixteenth of one percent to the commission to be deposited
2 in the breeders' fund.
- 3 (c) One-sixteenth of one percent to the commission to be deposited
4 in the purse fund.
- 5 (d) One-sixteenth of one percent to the commission to be deposited
6 in the racing promotion fund.
- 7 3. For all pari-mutuel wagering the licensee shall pay to the commission the amount
8 due for all unclaimed tickets and all breakage to be deposited in the racing
9 promotion fund.
- 10 4. The licensee conducting wagering on live racing, simulcast wagering, or account
11 wagering shall retain all other money in the pari-mutuel pool and pay it to bettors
12 holding winning tickets as provided by rules adopted by the commission.
- 13 5. A licensee may not use any of the portion deducted for expenses under
14 subsections 1 and 2 for expenses not directly incurred by the licensee in
15 conducting pari-mutuel racing under the certificate system. After paying qualifying
16 expenses, the licensee shall use the remainder of the amount so withheld only for
17 eligible uses allowed to charitable gambling organizations under section
18 53-06.1-11.1.
- 19 6. The commission shall deposit the moneys received pursuant to subsections 1, 2,
20 and 3 and from the North Dakota horse racing foundation pursuant to subsection 5
21 of section 53-06.2-05 in the breeders' fund, the purse fund, and the racing
22 promotion fund. Moneys, and any earnings on the moneys, in the breeders' fund,
23 purse fund, and racing promotion fund are appropriated to the commission on a
24 continuing basis to carry out the purposes of those funds under this chapter and
25 must be administered and disbursed in accordance with rules adopted by the
26 commission. The commission may not transfer money among the funds. The
27 commission shall distribute awards and payment supplements from the breeders'
28 fund in the same calendar year the money was earned by the recipient. The
29 commission shall distribute payments awarded to qualified owners and breeders
30 from the breeders' fund without requiring owners and breeders to apply for the
31 payments. The commission, upon approval of the emergency commission, may

1 receive no more than twenty-five percent of the racing promotion fund for the
2 payment of the commission's operating expenses.

3 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-12 is amended:

4 **53-06.2-12. Audits and investigations by state auditor.** On request of the
5 commission, the state auditor shall conduct audits and investigate the operations of any
6 licensee. The commission shall reimburse the state auditor for all services rendered.

7 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-13 is amended:

8 **53-06.2-13. Duty of attorney general to participate in certain hearings and to**
9 **conduct investigations - Employment of private counsel by commission.**

10 1. The attorney general shall represent the state in all hearings before the
11 commission and shall prosecute all criminal proceedings arising from violations of
12 this chapter. The attorney general may require payment for any services rendered
13 to the racing commission. Payment for the services must be deposited in the
14 attorney general's operating fund. The commission may employ private counsel
15 for adoption of rules and to ensure that its hearings are conducted fairly.

16 2. a. The attorney general may audit and investigate service providers, totalizator
17 companies, site operators, or organizations applying to conduct or conducting
18 pari-mutuel wagering. The attorney general may:

- 19 (1) Inspect all sites in which pari-mutuel wagering is conducted.
20 (2) Inspect all pari-mutuel wagering equipment and supplies.
21 (3) Seize, remove, or impound any pari-mutuel equipment, supplies, or
22 books and records for the purpose of examination and inspection.
23 (4) Inspect, examine, photocopy, and audit all books and records.

24 b. The commission shall reimburse the attorney general for auditing and
25 investigation. Payment for auditing and investigation must be deposited in the
26 attorney general's operating fund.

27 **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-14 is amended:

28 **53-06.2-14. Denial, suspension, and revocation of licenses - Reasons.** The
29 commission may deny, suspend, or revoke licenses under the certificate system and privileges
30 granted by it, and it may terminate racing privileges for just cause. Actions constituting just
31 cause include:

- 1 1. Any action or attempted action by a person contrary to any law.
- 2 2. Corrupt practices, which include:
- 3 a. Prearranging or attempting to prearrange the order of finish of a race.
- 4 b. Failing to properly pay winnings to a bettor or to properly return change to a
- 5 bettor purchasing a ticket.
- 6 c. Falsifying or manipulating the odds on any entrant in a race.
- 7 3. Any violation of the rules of racing adopted by the commission.
- 8 4. Willful falsification or misstatement of fact in an application for racing privileges.
- 9 5. Material false statement to a racing official or to the commission.
- 10 6. Willful disobedience of a commission order or of a lawful order of a racing official
- 11 other than a commission member.
- 12 7. Continued failure or inability to meet financial obligations connected with racing
- 13 meets.
- 14 8. Failure or inability to properly maintain a racetrack.

15 **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-15 is amended:

16 **53-06.2-15. Revocation, suspension, fine - Procedure.** The commission, on proof of
17 violation by a licensee, its agents or employees, of this chapter or any rule adopted by the
18 commission may, on reasonable notice to the licensee and after giving the licensee an
19 opportunity to be heard, fine the licensee or revoke or suspend the license. If the license is
20 revoked, the licensee is not eligible to receive another license within twelve months from the
21 date of revocation. Every decision or order of the commission must be made in writing and filed
22 with the director for preservation as a permanent record of the commission. The decision must
23 be signed by the chairman, attested by the director, and dated.

24 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 53-06.2-16 is amended:

25 **53-06.2-16. Prohibited acts - Penalties.**

- 26 1. No person may conduct a pari-mutuel horse race unless that person is licensed by
- 27 the commission. Violation of this subsection is a class A misdemeanor.
- 28 2. No person may prearrange or attempt to prearrange the order of finish of a race.
- 29 Violation of this subsection is a class C felony.

30 **SECTION 17. REPEAL.** Section 53-06.2-02 is repealed.