

CHAPTER 4

(HB 134)

AN ACT relating to pari-mutuel wagering and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

→Section 1. KRS 138.510 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this subsection ***and subsection (3) of this section***, an excise tax is imposed on all tracks conducting pari-mutuel wagering on live racing under the jurisdiction of the commission as follows:
 1. For each track with a daily average live handle of one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) or above, the tax shall be in the amount of three and one-half percent (3.5%) of all money wagered on live races at the track during the fiscal year; and
 2. For each track with a daily average live handle under one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000), the tax shall be one and one-half percent (1.5%) of all money wagered on live races at the track during the fiscal year.
- (b) Beginning on April 1, 2014, an excise tax is imposed on all tracks conducting pari-mutuel wagering on historical horse races under the jurisdiction of the commission at a rate of one and one-half percent (1.5%) of all money wagered on historical horse races at the track during the fiscal year.
- (c) Money shall be deducted from the tax paid under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection and deposited as follows:
 1. An amount equal to three-quarters of one percent (0.75%) of all money wagered on live races and historical horse races at the track for Thoroughbred racing shall be deposited in the Thoroughbred development fund established in KRS 230.400;
 2. An amount equal to one percent (1%) of all money wagered on live races and historical horse races at the track for harness racing shall be deposited in the Kentucky standardbred development fund established in KRS 230.770;
 3. An amount equal to one percent (1%) of all money wagered on live races and historical horse races at the track for quarter horse, Appaloosa, and Arabian horse racing shall be deposited in the Kentucky quarter horse, Appaloosa, and Arabian development fund established by KRS 230.445;
 4. An amount equal to two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) of all money wagered on live races and historical horse races at the track shall be deposited in the equine industry program trust and revolving fund established by KRS 230.550 to support the Equine Industry Program at the University of Louisville, except that the amount deposited from money wagered on historical horse races in any fiscal year shall not exceed six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$650,000);
 5.
 - a. An amount equal to one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of all money wagered on live races and historical horse races at the track shall be deposited in a trust and revolving fund to be used for the construction, expansion, or renovation of facilities or the purchase of equipment for equine programs at state universities, except that the amount deposited from money wagered on historical horse races in any fiscal year shall not exceed three hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$320,000).
 - b. These funds shall not be used for salaries or for operating funds for teaching, research, or administration. Funds allocated under this subparagraph shall not replace other funds for capital purposes or operation of equine programs at state universities.
 - c. The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education shall serve as the administrative agent and shall establish an advisory committee of interested parties, including all universities with established equine programs, to evaluate proposals and make recommendations for the awarding of funds.
 - d. The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education may promulgate administrative regulations to establish procedures for administering the program and criteria for evaluating and awarding grants; and

6. An amount equal to one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of all money wagered on live races and historical horse races shall be distributed to the commission to support equine drug testing as provided in KRS 230.265(3), except that the amount deposited from money wagered on historical horse races in any fiscal year shall not exceed three hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$320,000).
- (d) The excise tax imposed by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall not apply to pari-mutuel wagering on live harness racing at a county fair.
- (e) The excise tax imposed by paragraph (a) of this subsection, and the distributions provided for in paragraph (c) of this subsection, shall apply to money wagered on historical horse races beginning September 1, 2011, through March 31, 2014, and historical horse races shall be considered live racing for purposes of determining the daily average live handle. Beginning April 1, 2014, the tax imposed by paragraph (b) of this subsection shall apply to money wagered on historical horse races.
- (2) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection, an excise tax is imposed on:
1. All tracks conducting telephone account wagering;
 2. All tracks participating as receiving tracks in intertrack wagering under the jurisdiction of the commission; and
 3. All tracks participating as receiving tracks displaying simulcasts and conducting interstate wagering thereon.
- (b) The tax shall be three percent (3%) of all money wagered on races as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection during the fiscal year.
- (c) A noncontiguous track facility approved by the commission on or after January 1, 1999, shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this subsection, if the facility is established and operated by a licensed track which has a total annual handle on live racing of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) or less. The amount of money exempted under this paragraph shall be retained by the noncontiguous track facility, KRS 230.3771 and 230.378 notwithstanding.
- (d) Money shall be deducted from the tax paid under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection as follows:
1. An amount equal to two percent (2%) of the amount wagered shall be deposited as follows:
 - a. In the Thoroughbred development fund established in KRS 230.400 if the host track is conducting a Thoroughbred race meeting or the interstate wagering is conducted on a Thoroughbred race meeting;
 - b. In the Kentucky standardbred development fund established in KRS 230.770, if the host track is conducting a harness race meeting or the interstate wagering is conducted on a harness race meeting; or
 - c. In the Kentucky quarter horse, Appaloosa, and Arabian development fund established by KRS 230.445, if the host track is conducting a quarter horse, Appaloosa, or Arabian horse race meeting or the interstate wagering is conducted on a quarter horse, Appaloosa, or Arabian horse race meeting;
 2. An amount equal to one-twentieth of one percent (0.05%) of the amount wagered shall be allocated to the equine industry program trust and revolving fund established by KRS 230.550 to be used to support the Equine Industry Program at the University of Louisville;
 3. An amount equal to one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the amount wagered shall be deposited in a trust and revolving fund to be used for the construction, expansion, or renovation of facilities or the purchase of equipment for equine programs at state universities, as detailed in subsection (1)(c)5. of this section; and
 4. An amount equal to one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the amount wagered shall be distributed to the commission to support equine drug testing as provided in KRS 230.265(3).
- (3) (a) *The provisions of this subsection shall apply retroactively to January 1, 2015, and shall expire on December 31, 2017.*
- (b) *If a host track in this state is the location for the conduct of a two (2) day international horse racing event that distributes in excess of a total of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) in purses and*

awards:

1. *The excise tax imposed by subsection (1)(a) of this section shall not apply to money wagered at the track on live races conducted at the track during the two (2) day international horse racing event; and*
 2. *Amounts wagered at the track on live races conducted at the track during the two (2) day international horse racing event shall not be included in calculating the daily average live handle for purposes of subsection (1) of this section.*
- (4) The taxes imposed by this section shall be paid, collected, and administered as provided in KRS 138.530.

➔Section 2. Whereas it is vital to have the correct tax program in place in advance of any international horse racing events that may occur in Kentucky in 2015 and beyond, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Signed by Governor March 17, 2015.