

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 2561

PRINTER NO. 3611

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

State Racing Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

September 17, 2024

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Howard

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 2561 amends Title 3 (Agriculture), Section 9311 (State Horse Racing Commission) to extend temporary regulations necessary to administer and enforce Chapter 93 (Race Horse Industry Reform) of Title 3 to October 19, 2028.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect immediately.

For information purposes, the Race Horse Industry Reform Act (Act 114 of 2016) initially provided the State Horse Racing Commission with three years to issue temporary regulations and three years after the publication of the temporary regulations to promulgate permanent regulations. The temporary regulations were published in October of 2019 and extended through October 2025 due to the passage of the federal Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2020 (HISA).

The federal HISA law, which supersedes state law, establishes rules for horseracing related to anti-doping, drug detection and racetrack safety. Presently, the federal HISA law is subject to ongoing litigation challenging its constitutionality, so further extension of the state's temporary regulations is necessary to continue horseracing in the Commonwealth.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of House Bill 2561 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The Department of Agriculture has indicated that the cost to extend the temporary regulations can be accomplished within the commission's existing operating budget, which in Fiscal Year 2024-25 is \$7,680,000.