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HOUSE BILL 2369

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall, Conway, Clibborn, P. Sullivan and Simpson;  
by request of Horse Racing Commission

Prefiled 12/27/2005. Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to  
Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the Washington horse racing  
2 commission to expend a statutorily limited amount of its operating  
3 funds for the development of the equine industry, improvement of racing  
4 facilities, and equine health research; and amending RCW 67.16.280 and  
5 67.16.101.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 67.16.280 and 2004 c 246 s 3 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 (1) The Washington horse racing commission operating account is  
10 created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts collected  
11 by the commission under RCW 67.16.105(2) must be deposited into the  
12 account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.  
13 Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, expenditures from  
14 the account may be used only for operating expenses of the commission.  
15 Investment earnings from the account must be distributed to the  
16 Washington horse racing commission class C purse fund account, created  
17 in RCW 67.16.285, pursuant to RCW 43.79A.040.

18 (2) In order to provide funding in support of the legislative  
19 findings in RCW 67.16.101 (1) through (3), and to provide additional

1 necessary support to the small race courses beyond the funding provided  
2 by RCW 67.16.101(4) and 67.16.102(2), the commission is authorized to  
3 spend up to three hundred thousand dollars per fiscal year from its  
4 operating account for the purpose of developing the equine industry,  
5 maintenance and upgrades of racing facilities, and equine health  
6 research. When determining how to allocate the funds available for  
7 these purposes, the commission shall give first consideration to uses  
8 that assist the nonprofit race meets and equine health research. These  
9 expenditures may occur only when sufficient funds remain for the  
10 continued operations of the horse racing commission.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 67.16.101 and 1977 ex.s. c 372 s 1 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 The legislature finds that:

14 (1) A primary responsibility of the horse racing commission is the  
15 encouragement of the training and development of the equine industry in  
16 the state of Washington whether the result of this training and  
17 development results in legalized horse racing or in the recreational  
18 use of horses;

19 (2) The horse racing commission has a further major responsibility  
20 to assure that any facility used as a race course should be maintained  
21 and upgraded to insure the continued safety of both the public and the  
22 horse at any time the facility is used for the training or contesting  
23 of these animals;

24 (3) Small race courses within the state have difficulty in  
25 obtaining sufficient funds to provide the maintenance and upgrading  
26 necessary to assure this safety at these facilities, or to permit  
27 frequent use of these facilities by 4-H children or other horse owners  
28 involved in training; and

29 (4) The one percent of the parimutuel machine gross receipts used  
30 to pay a special purse to the licensed owners of Washington bred horses  
31 is available for the purpose of drawing interest, thereby obtaining  
32 (~~sufficient~~) funds to be disbursed to achieve the necessary support  
33 to these small race courses.

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