

## TOC Weighs in on Recent Legislation

“In politics, a year is a lifetime”...*Anonymous*. This axiom is certainly true in California. Last year, Democrats and their key constituencies brutally defeated every one of the initiatives the Governor supported in his ill-fated special election. Partisanship was at an all time high and the Governor’s approval ratings were at an all time low.

This year, the Legislature and Governor have worked collaboratively to pass an unprecedented set of infrastructure improvement bonds and delivered California’s largest ever (\$131 billion) state budget on time. The bipartisan effort on these projects has given both the Governor and the legislature a much-needed boost in voter approval.

Before adjourning on June 30 for summer recess, the legislature also took action on a number of bills important to Thoroughbred Owners:

### **AB 2409 (Yee) Wagering on Historical Races**

Allows the CHRB to authorize pari-mutuel wagering on historical races and specify how revenues from those races would be distributed.

**TOC Position:** Support

**Action:** Withdrawn from Senate G.O. Committee.

### **SB 1229 (Florez) Advertising**

Makes it unlawful for any person to advertise, or to facilitate the advertisement of nonparimutuel wagering on horse races.

**TOC Position:** Support

**Action:** Passed by Assembly G.O. Committee.

### **SB 1464 (Denham) Polytrack**

Requires the installation of a polymer synthetic type racing surface by December 31, 2007 as a condition of issuing a license to any track that operates four weeks of continuous thoroughbred racing in a calendar year.

**TOC Position:** Support

**Action:** Passed by Assembly G.O. Committee.

### **SB 1692 (Migden) Owner Representation**

Expresses Legislative intent to address concerns relative to allowing horsemen in the Northern Zone to more fully participate in the governance of horse racing in California.

**TOC Position:** Oppose

**Action:** Held in Assembly G.O. Committee.

### **SB 1805 (Florez) Workers’ Compensation Funding**

Allows the use of exotic pari-mutuel pool funds to defray the cost of workers’ compensation insurance and to reimburse racing associations for safety related expenditures.

**TOC Position:** Support

**Action:** Passed by Assembly G.O. Committee.

Work will continue on most of these issues when the legislature returns to Sacramento next month. History has shown that a lot can happen between now and final adjournment of the 2005/06 session on August 31 – and TOC will be engaged to the bitter end on behalf of Owners throughout the state.