

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By David Helmsin

The effort to educate new committee members on horseracing issues is well underway. In addition to the continuous interaction with the organization's Sacramento lobbyists, several owners and TOC Board members have also made trips to the Capitol – on more than one occasion – to personally deliver our message.

California's newly elected Legislature eagerly showed up for work in January, and wasted no time getting started on the 2007/08 Session. While legislative leadership has remained relatively stable, legislative term limits have triggered massive changes in the composition and chairs of many legislative committees.

The Governmental Organization Committees, where most horseracing issues are addressed, actually kept the same chair and vice chair in the Senate (Florez & Denham). However, a new chair and vice chair have been appointed in the Assembly (Torricco and Plescia). More than half of the individual members of each committee have also been replaced in 2007.

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Legislators have a propensity to legislate, and it appears that this year will be no exception. Included in the 2,700 measures that were dumped into the legislative hopper shortly before the February deadline for bill introduction are measures dealing with everything from "spanking" young children to capturing undomesticated burros.

Thus far, we have identified 27 bills that directly impact horseracing, and a similar number dealing with general gaming provisions. Major horseracing issues addressed in one or more of these bills

include:

- Mitigation for the adverse financial impact expanded Indian gaming compacts on the horseracing industry.
- Deletion of current provisions that would "sunset" the authority for ADW in California.
- Elimination of existing statutory restrictions on allowable sources of revenue for Thoroughbred purses.
- Expansion of satellite wagering facilities for a number of county fairs.
- Creation of the "Vincent Thoroughbred Race Cup" series, which would establish a "quadruple crown" at specified California tracks.
- Increasing the riding fees for jockeys and indexing fees to future changes in the minimum wage.

Most of these measures reflect placeholder or "spot bill" language that is anticipated to change based on negotiations among affected stakeholders. TOC will be there to represent owners in the dialogue surrounding these and other measures likely to pop up as the legislative hearing process gets underway in March.

Owners with any questions or comments on pending legislation are encouraged to contact Drew Couto, President, or Guy Lamothe, Executive Director, in the TOC office, by phone at (626) 574-6620, or email at dcouto@toconline.com or glamothe@toconline.com.

Tracking Trends

DAILY ATTENDANCE & WAGERING through Sunday, March 18, 2007

	Racedays	Reported Attendance		Pari-mutuel Wagering		Pari-mutuel Purse Revenues	
2007 Los Angeles Turf Club - Current	60	17,838	-1.5%	\$11,962,954	+5.5%	\$444,132	+2.6%
On-Track		8,820	-1.0%	\$2,163,541	-4.5%	\$153,113	-2.2%
Off-Track		9,018	-2.0%	\$2,884,666	-3.4%	\$136,118	-3.0%
CA ADW				\$851,737	+5.1%	\$40,073	+7.7%
Out-of-State (Reg. & ADW)				\$6,063,010	+14.9%	\$114,828	+16.4%
2007 Bay Meadows Spring - Current	23	5,973	+0.9%	\$4,165,437	+2.4%	\$159,336	-0.3%
On-Track		2,709	+27.3%	\$668,771	+12.8%	\$45,375	+12.1%
Off-Track		3,263	-14.0%	\$1,239,492	-14.4%	\$65,096	-15.5%
CA ADW				\$378,428	+16.6%	\$19,635	+21.0%
Out-of-State (Reg. & ADW)				\$1,878,746	+10.4%	\$29,231	+12.4%
2007 Golden Gate Holiday Meet - Final	31	5,936	+0.0%	\$4,153,398	+1.8%	\$153,887	-0.7%
On-Track		2,411	-3.9%	\$579,625	-11.2%	\$39,652	-12.4%
Off-Track		3,525	+2.9%	\$1,299,842	+5.5%	\$68,051	+2.4%
CA ADW				\$297,938	+7.5%	\$15,525	+12.2%
Out-of-State (Reg. & ADW)				\$1,975,993	+3.0%	\$30,660	+4.1%