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HOUSE BILL NO. 402

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled January 3, 2014

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 59.1-378.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Racing Commission; simulcast of certain horse races.*

Patrons—Webert and Minchew

Referred to Committee on General Laws**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 59.1-378.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 59.1-378.1. Licensing of owners or operators of certain pari-mutuel facilities.**

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 59.1-391, the Commission may grant a license, for a duration to be determined by the Commission, to the owner or operator of a steeplechase facility for the purpose of conducting pari-mutuel wagering on steeplechase race meetings *and conducting simulcast horse racing* at that facility *in conjunction with the steeplechase race meetings* for a period not to exceed fourteen days in any calendar year, provided that, prior to making application for such license, (i) the steeplechase facility has been sanctioned by the Virginia Steeplechase Association or National Steeplechase Association and (ii) the owner or operator of such facility has been granted tax-exempt status under § 501 (c) (3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code. For purposes of this section, "steeplechase facility" means a turf racecourse constructed over natural ground which is utilized primarily for races where horses jump over fences.

B. In deciding whether to grant any license pursuant to this section, the Commission shall consider (i) the results of, circumstances surrounding, and issues involved in any referendum conducted under the provisions of § 59.1-391 and (ii) whether the Commission had previously granted a license to such facility, owner, or operator.

C. In no event shall the Commission issue more than twelve licenses in a calendar year pursuant to this section.

INTRODUCED

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