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AB-1786 Horse racing: the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program. (2015-2016)

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Assembly Bill No. 1786

CHAPTER 223

An act to amend Section 19619 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to horse racing.

[Approved by Governor August 29, 2016. Filed with Secretary of State August 29, 2016.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1786, Cooley. Horse racing: the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program.

(1) The Horse Racing Law establishes the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program for standardbred horses bred in California, and provides that an offspring of a registered California standardbred stallion standing in California during an entire breeding season is eligible to race in the program.

This bill would expand eligibility to race in the program to include the offspring of registered standardbred stallions standing in Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, or Wisconsin, or the Province of Alberta, Canada.

(2) The Horse Racing Law requires the California Horse Racing Board to set a schedule of races for the program in accordance with specified requirements, including, among other things, that races be scheduled by the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Committee, at its discretion, for 2-year-old and 3-year-old trotters, as specified, and that 2- and 3-year-old races be divided into colt and filly divisions.

This bill would instead require that races be scheduled for 2-year-old or 3-year-old trotters and would delete the requirement that 2- and 3-year-old races be divided into colt and filly divisions.

(3) The Horse Racing Law also establishes the manner of dividing the purse in California standardbred sires stakes races, and sets forth the percentages to be allocated for horses placing in the race based on the number of participating starters in a race.

This bill would establish the percentages to be allocated for horses finishing in 1st to 5th place, inclusive, regardless of the number of starters in the race.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 19619 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

19619. (a) Since the purpose of this chapter is to encourage agriculture and the breeding of horses in this state, a California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program is hereby established for standardbred horses bred in the State of California.

(b) Horses eligible to race in the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program shall be the offspring of a registered California standardbred stallion standing in California during an entire breeding season, or the offspring of a registered standardbred stallion standing in Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, or Maine, or the Province of Alberta, Canada.

(c) (1) Responsibility for the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program is with the board. Administration of the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program is the responsibility of the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Committee. The committee shall consist of five members and one alternate selected from and by the California Harness Horsemen's Association.

(2) Administrative expenses of the committee in any given year shall not exceed 4 percent of that year's income to the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program, and all expenses shall be approved by the board.

(d) The board may do all that is necessary to ensure that the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program is appropriately administered and shall prepare, issue, and adopt rules and regulations providing for all of the following:

(1) Classes and divisions of races, eligibility of horses and owners therefor, and prizes and awards to be awarded.

(2) Nominating, sustaining, and entry fees for horses and races.

(3) Registration and certification of California stallions, mares bred to those stallions, and foals produced thereby.

(4) Any other matter that is considered to be necessary and appropriate for the proper administration and implementation of the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program.

(e) The funds for the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program made available pursuant to Section 19491.7 and the nominating, sustaining, and entry fees provided for in this section shall be deposited with the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Committee. The committee shall distribute the funds deposited with it in accordance with this section for the purposes of the program in the manner approved by the board.

(f) Pursuant to Section 19491.7, the breakage used to fund the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program and to increase purses shall be divided in accordance with the following criteria:

	California Standardbred	
	Sires Stakes Program	Purses
1977	10%	90%
1978	20%	80%
1979	25%	75%
1980	50%	50%
January 1 to June 30, 1981	75%	25%
July 1, 1981, and thereafter	100%	0%

(g) An amount equal to 10 percent of the total purses raced for in the California sires stakes races shall be awarded to the standardbred breeders of the horses that earned purse money in the California standardbred sires stakes races in proportion to the amount of purse money earned by each horse.

(h) An amount equal to 2 percent of the total purses raced for in the California sires stakes races shall be awarded to the owners of the registered California standardbred stallions that sired horses that earned purse money in the California standardbred sires stakes races in proportion to the amount of purse money earned by each horse so sired.

(i) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), the board may establish a series of races for two-year-old and three-year-old fillies that are wholly owned by a California resident on the first day of January of the year that they become two years old and are wholly owned by a California resident on the day of the race.

(j) The balance of the remaining funds, including nominating, sustaining, and entry fees, and after the expenditures described in subdivisions (e), (g), (h), and (i) have been made, shall be allocated to purses for races comprising the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program.

(k) The schedule of races that shall comprise the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Program during each year shall be set by the board in accordance with the following criteria:

(1) California standardbred sires stakes races shall be scheduled for two-year-old or three-year-old trotters and two-year-old and three-year-old pacers at the discretion of the California Standardbred Sires Stakes Committee, except that no two-year-old

races shall be held before the first day of June of any year. Races for four-year-old or aged trotters and four-year-old or aged pacers may also be scheduled.

(2) Base purses for each set of races conducted during any given year at any race meeting shall be determined by the committee.

(3) In each division of each race in the California standardbred sires stakes races, the purse shall be divided in the following manner:

1st	50%
2nd	25%
3rd	12%
4th	8%
5th	5%