

House Bill No. 941

An act relating to pari-mutuel wagering; requiring dogracing permit-holders to provide a greyhound-adoption booth at each dogracing facility in the state; requiring that the booth be operated by certain qualified persons on weekends; requiring that information concerning the adoption of a greyhound be made available to the public at the facility; requiring the permitholder to provide adoption information in racing programs and to identify greyhounds that will become available for adoption; authorizing the permitholder to hold an additional charity day that is designated as “Greyhound Adopt-A-Pet Day”; requiring that profits derived from the charity day be used to fund activities promoting the adoption of greyhounds; authorizing the Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to adopt rules; providing penalties; amending s. 550.1647, F.S., relating to unclaimed tickets and breaks with respect to greyhound racing; defining the term “bona fide organization that promotes or encourages the adoption of greyhounds”; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Greyhound adoptions.—

(1) Each dogracing permitholder operating a dogracing facility in this state shall provide for a greyhound-adoption booth to be located at the facility. The greyhound-adoption booth must be operated on weekends by personnel or volunteers from a bona fide organization that promotes or encourages the adoption of greyhounds pursuant to section 550.1647, Florida Statutes. As used in this section, the term “weekend” includes the hours during which live greyhound racing is conducted on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Information pamphlets and application forms shall be provided to the public upon request. In addition, the kennel operator or owner shall notify the permitholder that a greyhound is available for adoption and the permitholder shall provide information concerning the adoption of a greyhound in each race program and shall post adoption information at conspicuous locations throughout the dogracing facility. Any greyhound that is participating in a race and that will be available for future adoption must be noted in the race program. The permitholder shall allow greyhounds to be walked through the track facility to publicize the greyhound-adoption program.

(2) In addition to the charity days authorized under section 550.0351, Florida Statutes, a greyhound permitholder may fund the greyhound-adoption program by holding a charity racing day designated as “Greyhound Adopt-A-Pet Day.” All profits derived from the operation of the charity day must be placed into a fund used to support activities at the racing facility which promote the adoption of greyhounds. The division may adopt rules for administering the fund. Proceeds from the charity day authorized in this

subsection may not be used as a source of funds for the purposes set forth in section 550.1647, Florida Statutes.

(3)(a) Upon a violation of this section by a permitholder or licensee, the division may impose a penalty as provided in section 550.0251(10), Florida Statutes, and require the permitholder to take corrective action.

(b) A penalty imposed under section 550.0251(10), Florida Statutes, does not exclude a prosecution for cruelty to animals or for any other criminal act.

Section 2. Section 550.1647, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

550.1647 Greyhound permitholders; unclaimed tickets; breaks.—All money or other property represented by any unclaimed, uncashed, or abandoned pari-mutuel ticket which has remained in the custody of or under the control of any permitholder authorized to conduct greyhound racing pari-mutuel pools in this state for a period of 1 year after the date the pari-mutuel ticket was issued, if the rightful owner or owners thereof have made no claim or demand for such money or other property within that period of time, shall, with respect to live races conducted by the permitholder, be remitted to the state pursuant to s. 550.1645; however, such permitholder shall be entitled to a credit in each state fiscal year in an amount equal to the actual amount remitted in the prior state fiscal year which may be applied against any taxes imposed pursuant to this chapter. In addition, each permitholder shall pay, from any source, including the proceeds from performances conducted pursuant to s. 550.0351, an amount not less than 10 percent of the amount of the credit provided by this section to any bona fide organization that promotes or encourages the adoption of greyhounds. As used in this chapter, the term “bona fide organization that promotes or encourages the adoption of greyhounds” means any organization that provides evidence of compliance with chapter 496 and possesses a valid exemption from federal taxation issued by the Internal Revenue Service. Such bona fide organization, as a condition of adoption, must provide sterilization of greyhounds by a licensed veterinarian before relinquishing custody of the greyhound to the adopter. The fee for sterilization may be included in the cost of adoption.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

Approved by the Governor April 28, 2004.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 28, 2004.